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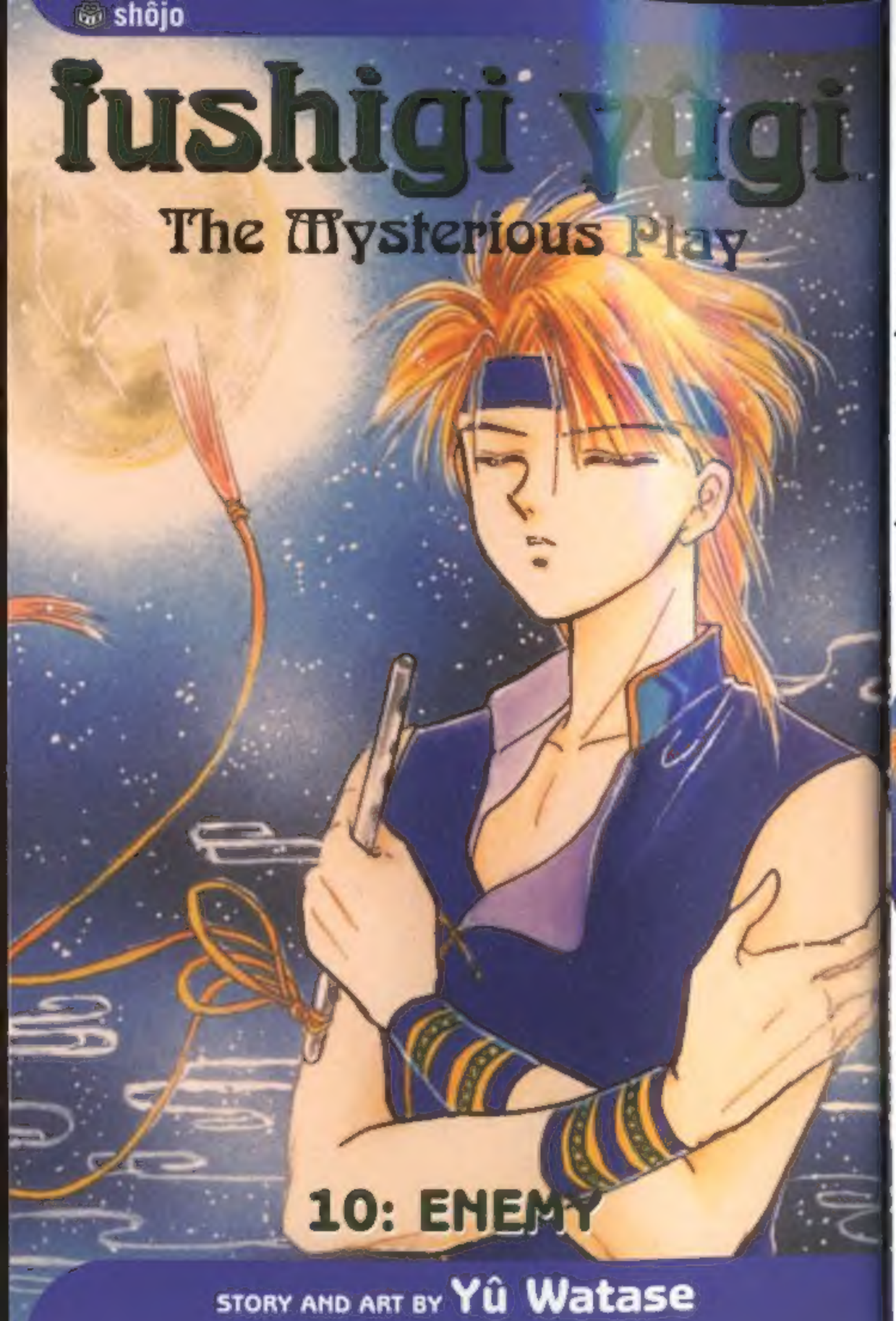
The Mysterious Play



10: ENEMY

STORY AND ART BY **Yû Watase**

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The Mysterious Play

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VOL. 10: ENEMY

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FUSHIGI YÛGI
THE MYSTERIOUS PLAY
VOL. 10: ENEMY
SHÔJO EDITION

This volume contains the FUSHIGI YÛGI installments from Animerica Extra Vol. 6, No. 9 through Vol. 7, No. 1, in their entirety.

STORY AND ART BY YÛ WATASE

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STORY THUS FAR

Chipper junior-high-school girl Miaka is physically drawn into the world of a strange book—*The Universe of the Four Gods*. Miaka is offered the role of the lead character, the Priestess of the god Suzaku, and is charged with a mission to save the nation of Hong-Nan, and in the process have three wishes granted.

While Miaka makes a short trip back to the real world, her best friend Yui is sucked into the book only to suffer rape and manipulation, which drives her to attempt suicide. Now, Yui has become the Priestess of the god Seiryu, the bitter enemy of Suzaku and Miaka.

The only way for Miaka to gain back the trust of her former friend is to summon the god Suzaku and wish to be reconciled with Yui, so Miaka reenters the world of *The Universe of the Four Gods*. The Seiryu warriors ruin Miaka's first attempt to summon Suzaku, but the oracle, Tai Yi-Jun, has a new quest for Miaka and her Celestial Warriors of Suzaku—to obtain Shentso-Pao, treasures from the countries of the other two gods, Genbu and Byakko. Success will allow them to summon Suzaku. Only seconds after obtaining the first treasure, it is stolen from Miaka's hand by the Seiryu Warriors, leaving her wracked with guilt. Miaka, falling for a Seiryu trick, tries to get the treasure back, but instead is trapped by Nakago, who is intent on forcing sex on her. She is fully in his power as she falls unconscious. Later, Tamahome arrives to save her, inflicting a terrible wound on Nakago, but Tamahome's assurances aren't enough to calm Miaka's heart. She runs away from Tamahome, trips and sprains her ankle, and is immediately found by a Seiryu warrior wielding a deadly weapon!

The Universe of the Four Gods is based on ancient China, but Japanese pronunciation of Chinese names differs slightly from their Chinese equivalents. Here is a short glossary of the Japanese pronunciation of the Chinese names in this graphic novel:

CHINESE	JAPANESE	PERSON OR PLACE	MEANING
Xong Gui-Siu	Sô kishuku	Tamahome's Name	Demon Constellation
Hong-Nan	Konan	Southern Kingdom	Crimson South
Qu-Dong	Kutô	Eastern Kingdom	Gathered East
Bei-Jia	Hokkan	Northern Kingdom	Armored North
Xi-Lang	Sairô	Western Kingdom	West Tower
Shentso-Pao	Shinzahô	A Treasure	God's Seat Jewel
Tai Yi-Jun	Tai Itsukun	An Oracle	Preeminent Person

CHAPTER FIFTY-FIVE
ILLUSIONARY WARMTH

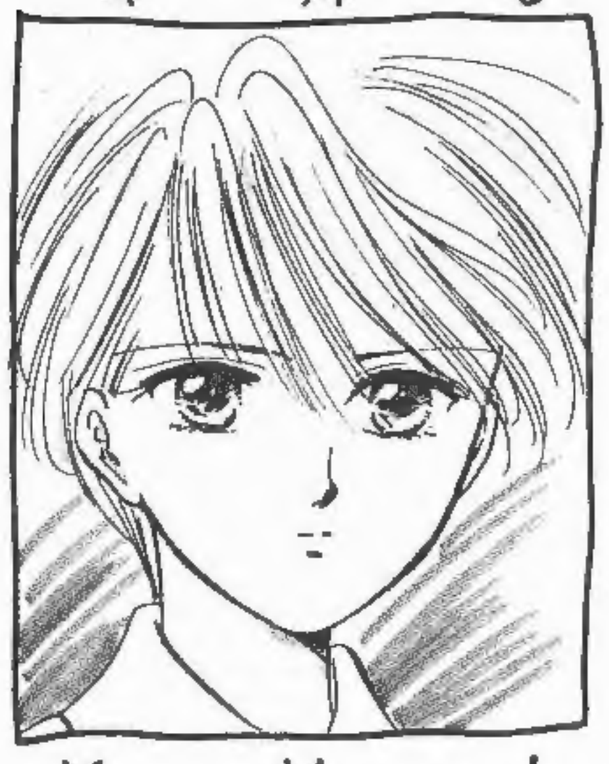
THIS IS IT FOR ME!

I TWISTED MY ANKLE. I CAN'T MOVE!

HOW COULD SUBOSHI BE HERE!?

N A K A G O

- He comes from an immigrant tribe of the far west.
- Commander of 2/3 of Qu-Dong's armed forces.
- No living family or friends.
- 25 years old.
- Height: 6' 4" (193 cm.)
- Ability: Chi attack techniques.
- Hobbies: Making Tamahome miserable (ha ha!).
- Personality: Beyond cold, he's Arctic ice! His name is a misnomer (a dwelling for the heart); his plans and actions show a complete lack of mercy. He allows for no emotional distraction nor wasted action. Once someone's usefulness is exhausted, the person is eliminated. On the other hand, he has an undeniable charisma which allows him to skillfully manipulate people. But what goes on in his mind remains a mystery.



Y U I

- Birth Place: Tokyo. Miaka's classmate, 15 years old.
- An only child. Latchkey kid -- both parents work.
- Height: 5' 3" (162 cm.)
- Weight: 108 lbs. (49 kg.)
- Vision: Right 20/18, Left 20/15
- Blood type: AB
- Hobbies: Reading (mysteries), music.
- Personality: In keeping with her looks, she is more mature than an average 15-year-old. Bold and confident in everything she does. Tends to see the world in black and white. Passionate, but passion turns to fury with betrayal. On the outside, she's supremely self-confident; but underneath, she longs for someone to take care of her.

WHA--
!?

WHA--
?

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!? IT WAS A GIANT POLECAT. IT WAS ABOUT TO *GET* YOU.

B--
BUT...
WHY
?

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU NEED SOME HELP?

SUBOSHI
!?

GET DOWN
!!

WHA--
?

Enemy

Hello, it's me, Watase. I just pulled my first all-nighter in quite a while, so I'm totally zoning out... ZZZZ... Hey, wake up! No sleep for me!

I don't really have a theme for this column (how much of a theme can you have in a 1/3-page column like this?)... so I'll just write down whatever comes to my numb mind.

In this story, there's a concept called the 28 constellations. For those who haven't read FY serialized in Shōjo Comic, it had an issue with a supplementary chart of astrological fortunes based on the 28 constellations. Apparently, that was the first time a chart like that has ever appeared in Japan! I tried it, and it was really fun! According to the editor who wrote the text, it was from an Indian 27-constellation astrology system that made its way as far as China! The characters (y'know, my characters) like Chichiri and Tamahome had their own personalities and attributes which ended up corresponding to the historical charts! It really surprised me.

I think my star sign was one of the constellations in Byakko. *I forgot which one.* I read the astrologer's notes and it was so similar to my story. That was another surprise!

The "Eastern Seiryu" was the sea god representing the waters from which life springs. The "Northern Genbu" is the cycle of death and rebirth as represented by the turtle and snake. (As far as death goes, there's Nuriko and Hikitsu. And rebirth means you're reincarnated. Of course, that was just a coincidence.) The "Western Byakko" represents worship of holy mountains. Western China is surrounded by mountains. *And the sea is in the east. See?*

YES? WHAT IS IT, YOUR EMINENCE !?
SUBOSHI !!
I HAVE TO TRAIN HARDER! FOR HER EMINENCE'S SAKE !
NAKAGO AND SOI JUST CAME BACK...
...BUT THERE'S AN AWFUL WOUND ON NAKAGO'S ARM!!

MIAKA!!
MIAKA!!
MIAKA!!
HUFF HUFF
MIAKA! WHERE DID YOU GO? WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME!?!
"I WON'T BE ABLE TO MARRY YOU ANYMORE."
NOT WITH *THAT* WOUND! THAT'S AN ORDER!
WE'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE SO THAT YOU CAN RECOVER.
I TREATED HIM A LITTLE ON THE ROAD, BUT THE WOUND IS SEVERE.
IMPOS-SIBLE. WE MUST GET TO XI-LANG AS SOON AS WE CAN!
....
IT'S LIKE YOUR ARM *MELTED!* WHO DID THAT TO YOU?
YOU DESERVE IT! NYAH! NYAH!
AS YOU WISH.

"...MIAKA..."

"WO AI NI."

"COME HERE."

HM ...

MY FAMILY...
...FRIENDS...
...AND THEN...

WHEN WILL YOU STOP TAKING FROM ME ALL THE THINGS I LOVE, *NAKAGO* !?!

HOW MUCH *PAIN* WILL SATISFY YOU ?

MIAKA'S EYES AREN'T SO SQUINTY!

REALLY? I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY GOOD!

MEOW! MEOW!! MEOW !!

GOOD... YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE!

HEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?

OH, YEAH!

NOOO!

AH!

TAMA-HOME ...

WE'RE FINALLY BOUND TO EACH OTHER!

FINALLY...

OH, NO!

DON'T !

SO YOU'RE... NOT SUBOSHI, ARE YOU? WHY DID YOU...

YOU'RE RIGHT, I WAS.

YOU WERE OUT FOR THREE DAYS.

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY DARN TIRED.

!

DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE IN MY HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE OF MUOHAN NEAR THE XI-LANG BORDER.

DOES YOUR LEG STILL HURT?

OH! YOU'RE AWAKE, YOUNG LADY!

WHAT IS IT, HUAIKE !?

ME? I'M...

BUT IF YOU TAKE TOO MUCH, IT CAN *KILL* YOU. IT'S REALLY POTENT STUFF!

THE BEST HEALER IN THE VILLAGE MADE IT. YOU EVEN FORGET YOU WERE EVER IN PAIN!

OF COURSE IT DOESN'T! WE GAVE YOU A POTION WITH THE "OBLIVION HERB."

OH! NO, IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.

A FLUTE !?

BUT NOW YOU SHOULD RELAX AND GET MORE REST.

HUAIKE, YOUR FLUTE IS SO SOOTHING. PLAY A TUNE FOR HER.

YES, OF COURSE.

AMIBOSH ...

HE'S AMIBOSHI !!

AMIBOSHI... SUBOSHI'S OLDER TWIN BROTHER, AND THE SEIRYU WARRIOR WHO TRICKED US. HE FELL INTO THE RIVER, BUT I THOUGHT HE DROWNED IN THE RAPIDS.

THIS SONG... IT *HAS* TO BE HIM!

EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING EXACTLY AS PLANNED. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TAMAHOME, OF COURSE...

NOW THAT THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU HAS LOST HER VIRGINITY, ALL THAT IS LEFT IS TO OBTAIN THE SHENTSO-PAO OF XI-LANG, AND...

IS THAT YOU, TOMO?

WHAT-EVER HAPPENED TO YOU, NAKAGO ?

HOW UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU WOUNDED.

OF COURSE SHE IS, IT IS SIMPLY--

THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU IS STILL A VIRGIN.

I DID NOT HAVE INTER-COURSE WITH THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I WONDER IF MY DREAM WILL EVER COME TRUE...

TAMA-HOME ...

BUT WE'LL NEVER MEET AGAIN.

NEVER ...

BUT HE'S STILL ALIVE!

THEY CALLED HIM HUAIKE... DOES HE HAVE AMNESIA? HE DOESN'T SEEM TO REMEM-BER ME AT ALL.

A SEIRYU WARRIOR... *HERE* OF ALL PLACES...

ONE OF NAKAGO'S COMPANIONS.

JUST WHEN I...

A BRIGHT RED FLAME CAME BURSTING FROM THE PRIESTESS' BODY.

!!

HER BARRIER WAS PERFECT. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO EVEN TOUCH HER. HER POWER TOOK ME BY SURPRISE.

BUT IT WAS A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY!

SHE MAY LOOK FRAIL, BUT SHE *IS* A PRIESTESS. BESIDES, I HAD NO DESIRE TO SLEEP WITH A COMATOSE BODY.

YOU? *YOU!?* SURELY YOU COULD HAVE FOUND *SOME* WAY TO BREAK PAST THE LITTLE GIRL'S PROTECTIVE BARRIER!

NAKAGO... PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T VIOLATE THE PRIESTESS BECAUSE YOU SAW IN HER... A LITTLE OF YOURSELF?

THE GIRL BELIEVES SHE'S BEEN DEFILED... JUST AS HER EMINENCE YUI BELIEVES.

IF THE RESULTS ARE THE SAME, WHAT MATTERS THE METHODS ?

HOWEVER, FIRST, I MUST DEAL WITH TAMA-HOME...

VERY WELL. I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

MY APOLOGIES. I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT SUBJECT IS TABOO.

UMM... MY SCHOOL UNIFORM...

MOM, WE MADE BREAKFA--

YOU LOOK WONDERFUL

THE CLOTHES I WORE AS A GIRL FIT PERFECTLY ON YOU!

I WONDER WHAT TAMAHOME WOULD SAY ...

YOU SURE LOOK *CUTE!*

WOW!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, HUAIKE?

OH, IT NEEDS SOME FIXING IT MIGHT TAKE A WHILE BECAUSE OF THE ODD FABRIC.

SOI!

WE SHOULD PUT THOSE WRITHING, WOUNDED SUZAKU CHICKS OUT OF THEIR MISERY.

TO SERVE WHAT I HAVE COOKED FOR TAMAHOME, I REQUIRE SOI'S HELP. I KNOW WHERE HE IS.

NAKAGO, DO YOU APPROVE?

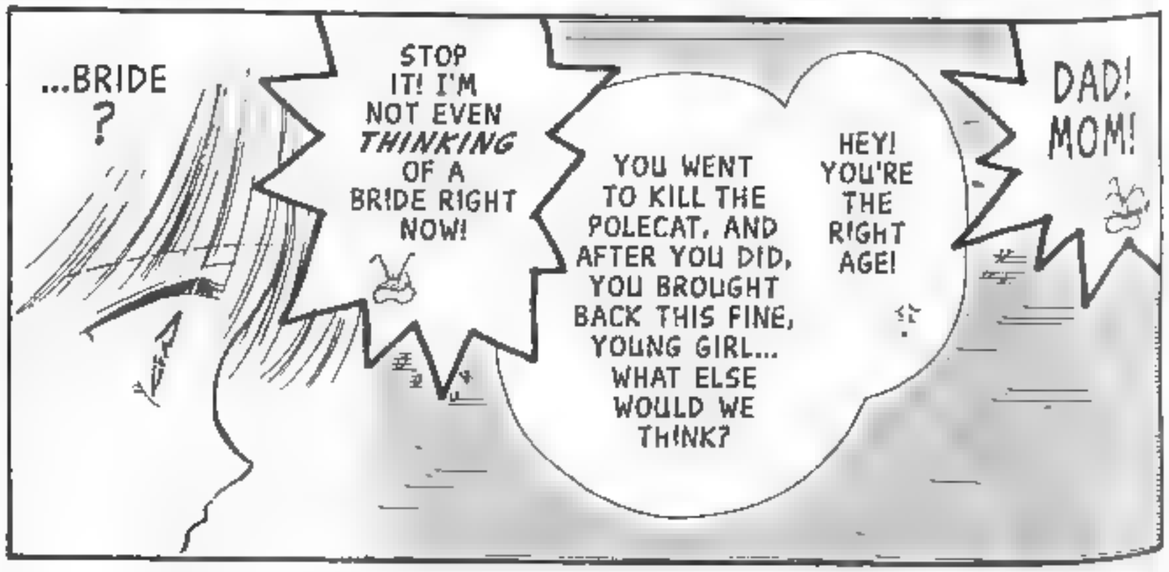
DO AS YOU LIKE.

キュウ

THAT DOES IT!

YES, YES.
THAT'S TRUE, HUH?
YESTERDAY, YOU WENT WITHOUT. YOU HAVE TO EAT TO BUILD UP STRENGTH.
HERE, EAT UP!
BUT...
AHHH!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, A STARVED BODY SHOULD TAKE IT A LITTLE AT A TIME!
...I'LL JUST HAVE A BITE.
UMPH!
カヲン
PHEW!!!
YOU THINK SO?
...IT'S BAD FOR ME, SO..
モニャモニャ
YOU'RE RIGHT, IF I DON'T EAT...

I DIDN'T PLAN THIS. WHAT'LL I DO NOW?
.....
LET'S SEE...
I CAN'T BE WITH TAMAHOME, BUT I GUESS THAT CHICHIRI AND THE OTHERS WON'T ACCEPT ME EITHER.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING ONCE YOUR LEGS ARE HEALED?
I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT A JOURNEY, MIAKA?
SPLASH
OF COURSE YOU COULD ALWAYS STAY AND BE HUAIKE'S BRIDE.


...BRIDE?
STOP IT! I'M NOT EVEN THINKING OF A BRIDE RIGHT NOW!
YOU WENT TO KILL THE POLECAT, AND AFTER YOU DID, YOU BROUGHT BACK THIS FINE, YOUNG GIRL... WHAT ELSE WOULD WE THINK?
HEY! YOU'RE THE RIGHT AGE!
DAD! MOM!

EVERY-THING I SEE OR HEAR JUST MAKES ME SAD.

I'M GOING TO MY ROOM. DON'T WORRY, I'D JUST LIKE TO BE ALONE.

OH, NO. IT'S NOT YOU. *I'M* SORRY!

MIAKA! I-I'M S-SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU CRY.

LET'S GO...

...OUT-SIDE!

BEING COOPED UP IN HERE WON'T HELP YOU. I'LL BE YOUR FEET.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL OUT THERE!

D-DON'T BOTHER WITH ME--

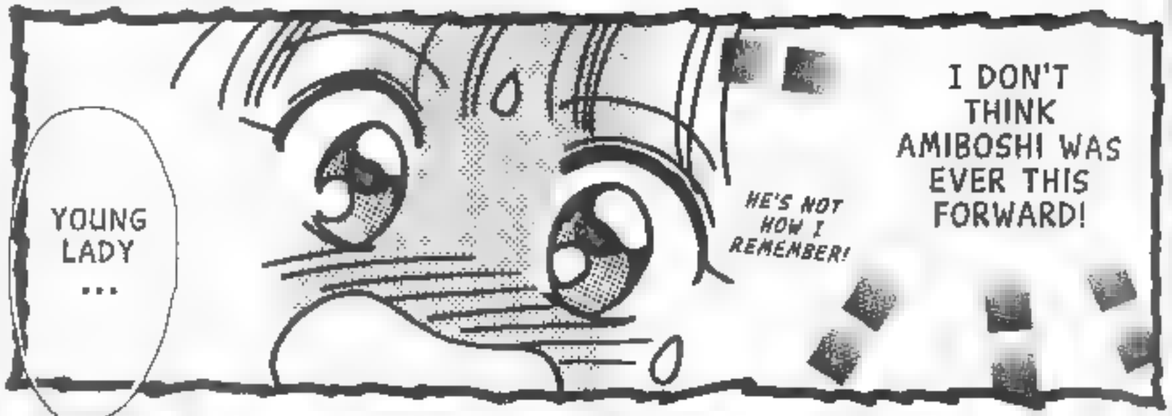
IT WAS OUR PROMISE.

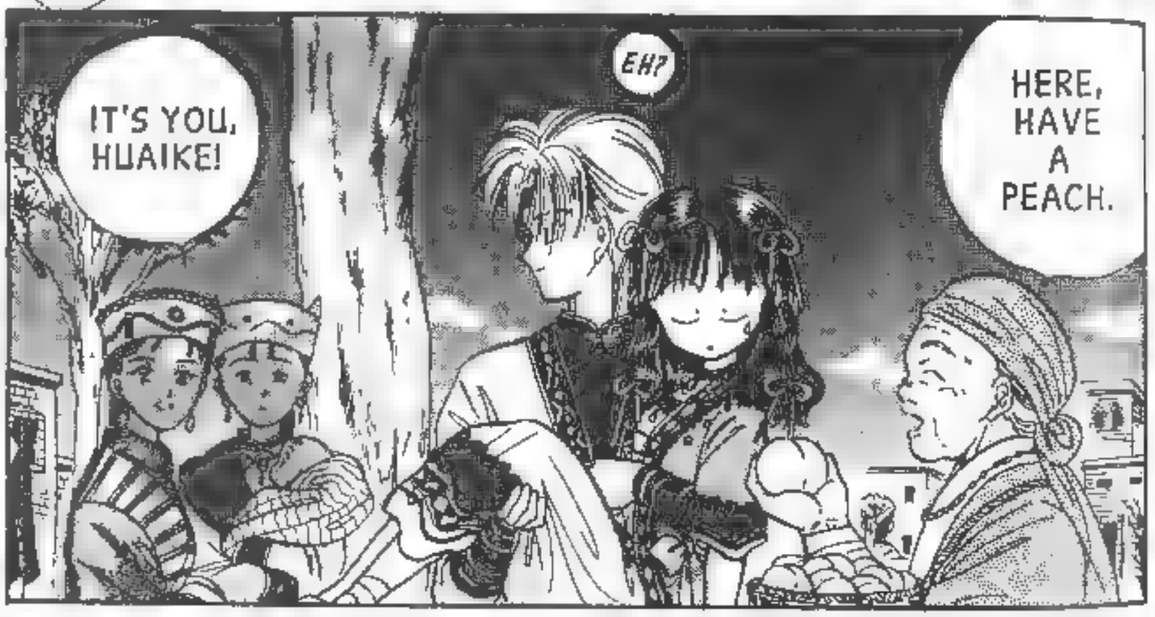
"I'LL MAKE YOU..."

"...THE HAPPIEST BRIDE IN THE WORLD."

...NO MORE.

BUT...


YOUNG LADY ...
HE'S NOT HOW I REMEMBER!
I DON'T THINK AMIBOSHI WAS EVER THIS FORWARD!


IT'S YOU, HUAIKE!
EH?
HERE, HAVE A PEACH.

I CAN'T BUY IT! I DON'T HAVE MONEY!
HA HA!
THEY DON'T WANT MONEY. THEY'RE JUST BEING FRIENDLY.

HOW ADORABLE YOU LOOK IN THE CLOTHES FROM OUR VILLAGE! BUT YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE TRADITIONAL HAT!

THANK GOODNESS YOUR WOUNDS WERE ONLY MINOR.
IS THIS THE GIRL WHO WAS ATTACKED BY THE GIANT POLECAT?
COME BY AND VISIT! WE HAVE SOME DELICIOUS CINNAMON TEA.

MOM, DAD, THE LADY AND I ARE GOING FOR A WALK!
not listening.
WHOA!!
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANY--
HEY! PUT ME DOWN !!
THEY LOOK SO GOOD TOGETHER.
AMIBO-- I MEAN... HUAIKE!
COME ON!! LET ME DOWN! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I WANT TO CHECK ON THOSE TWO.

THERE YOU GO AGAIN. YOU WORRIED YOURSELF SICK WHEN HE WENT AFTER THE POLECAT.

ISN'T THIS TREE AMAZING? THIS IS MY FAVORITE PLACE!

I WON'T ASK WHAT HAPPENED...

...BUT YOU SHOULDN'T WITHDRAW LIKE THAT.

BUT I COULDN'T JUST LET YOU LIE THERE.

I'M SORRY TO DRAG YOU OUT.

THEN NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THINGS REALLY *DO* TURN BAD. YOU LOSE HOPE.

PEOPLE ALWAYS DO THIS. ONE THING BAD HAPPENS, AND SUDDENLY EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD TURNS EVIL TO THEM.

I DIDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN FOR *YOU*, SO...

IT'S FINE FOR *YOU!* ISN'T IT, *AMIBOSHI !?!*

IT'S NOT *FAIR* TO LECTURE ME!

YOU JUST FORGET EVERY-THING!!

I WAS UPSET, AND I TOOK YOU FOR SOMEONE ELSE! YOU'RE NOT AMIBOSHI.

I'M SORRY.

GASP

.....

DON'T LET WHAT I SAID BOTHER YOU.

I JUST HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO. I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT.

!

MY COMPANIONS, PEOPLE I LOVE...

...EVEN MY BEST FRIEND! THEY'RE ALL GONE.

I'VE HAD TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN AROUND ME AND TO ME, AND I *CAN'T* FORGET! FORGETTING WOULD BE A *RELIEF!*

AND *YOU!* YOU GET A PEACEFUL VILLAGE, LOVING FAMILY AND NICE NEIGHBORS! IT'S NOT *FAIR!!*

AND YOU GET TO *FORGET* WHAT YOU DID TO US.

THE PAIN THAT YOU INFLICTED ON US! YOU DON'T REMEMBER *ANYTHING!*

WHERE ARE MITSUKAKE AND CHIRIKO?

HEY, CHICHIRI! THEY'RE FEEDIN' US LIKE *KINGS* AGAIN!

SKREE

CHIRIKO'S GLUED TO TH' BOOKS DOWN-STAIRS.

AND MITSUKAKE FOUND SOME GREAT HEALIN' HERBS TO STUDY!

OH, THEM ?

HUH? YA *SURE* IT AIN'T NO PROBLEM? HELL YEAH!

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE WINE, SIR?

SKR EEE

THANK YOU.

IT'LL GIVE YOU STRENGTH AND COURAGE.

THIS SONG !

....

I WONDER WHY MIAKA AND TAMAHOME STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED. NO DA.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REPORT BACK TO HIS MAJESTY, BUT SOMETHING IS INTERFERING. NO DA.

ELEPHANT EARS

WHO'DA THOUGHT XI-LANG WOULD TURN OUT T' BE SO GREAT!

MAN! I NEVER SEEN SUCH NICE FOLKS LIVIN' IN SUCH A NICE HOUSE!

IT *IS* NICE, BUT...

MIAKA'S TWIN BUN HAIR STYLE!

WHAT IS THAT ?

DRAGONFLY

...

ONLY THAT I'LL *NEVER* HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION WITH YOU AGAIN! NO DA!

DUST LINE

DID YA SAY SOMETHIN', CHICHIRI ?

THEN WHY AM I HERE ?

SO!, YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH BEDDING TECHNIQUES. THROUGH SEX, YOU CAN CONTROL A MAN'S CHI.

I'M HOME !

THEY'LL BURN IN THE MID-DAY SUN, AT NIGHT THEY'LL FREEZE. IN NO TIME, THEY'LL DIE OF EXPOSURE STRANDED IN THE DESERT LIKE THIS.

I USED MY "SHEN" SHELL TO CREATE AN ILLUSION OF XI-LANG FOR THE SUZAKU WARRIORS.

YOU SAID THAT TAMAHOME'S CHI WOUNDED NAKAGO. THAT MEANS THE SUZAKU WARRIOR IS GETTING STRONGER.

LET'S USE YOUR TECHNIQUE TO RUIN ALL THAT.

THAT'S...

...STRANGE...

MY BODY... FEELS HOT ALL OF THE SUDDEN...

I... HUH ?

MIAKA!?

AH...

MIAKA.

O-OH! WEL-COME BACK !

URK!

SORRY I TOOK SO LONG.

I'LL GO DRAW SOME WATER.

OH! THANK YOU!

O-OH, NO! IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. HERE, HAVE SOME SOUP. IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

I'M SORRY FOR CRYING AND CARRYING ON!

AH! IT'S DELI-CIOUS !

URR NNN ...
HUFF
HUFF

IF SHE MADE YOU REMEMBER YOUR PAST, YOU'D GO AWAY AND LEAVE US FOREVER!

YOU FED HER THE OBLIVION HERB!? HOW *COULD* YOU!?

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME!?

I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I USED TOO MUCH. I *DIDN'T!*

DON'T BE FOOLISH, MOTHER. YOU TWO SAVED ME FROM DROWNING IN THE RIVER! HOW COULD I LEAVE YOU WHEN I OWE MY LIFE!?

I WANTED HER TO FORGET ABOUT HUAIKE'S PAST!

HUFF HUFF HUFF

FATHER, PLEASE GO AND CALM MOTHER DOWN.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MIAKA.

HUFF HUFF

.. AHOME.

TAMA- HOME ...

THIS IS NO GOOD IF SHE'S ALLOWED TO STAY THIS HOT ..

TAMA-
HOME
...

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WILL BRING DOWN A FEVER, BUT I HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING!

...TAMA...

...HOME...

?

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMEONE CALL ME...

IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE HEAT.

MEE OWW WW!

SO!, TAMAHOME IS NOW UNDER THE SPELL. THE REST, I LEAVE TO YOU.

DON'T *EVER* DO THAT AGAIN, MIAKA!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!! I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!

.....

HE SEES YOU AS THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

HA HA HA HA!

I'M PLACING HIM IN THE ARMS OF HIS BELOVED YOU MIGHT CALL IT AN ACT OF KINDNESS

TAMA-HOME.

I'M SO SORRY ...

YOU AGAIN? NO MORE IMPRES-SIONS, OKAY? MY HORSE COLLAPSED, BUT YOU'RE STILL FINE...

MIAKA !?!

TAMA-HOME ...

MIAKA !!

MI--

I FEEL.

AMI-BOSHI'S CHI...?

THIS ISN'T TAMA-HOME.

NO.

HE DOESN'T SMELL LIKE THIS.

TAMA-HOME?

!?

LET ME GO...

...NO!!

MIAKA!?

SHE'S GOING INTO CONVUL-SIONS!

NO!!

...CHI
?

!

IS
THIS...

A
WARM
FEEL NG,
THROUGH
MY
WHOLE
BODY!

WHAT'S
THIS
?

SOME-
THING'S
ENTERING
THROUGH
MY
MOUTH...
?

YOUR
FEVER'S
DOWN.

AMI-
BOSHI...?
I...

THANK
GOOD-
NESS
!

SO TIGHT EVERY-THING ELSE SLIPS AWAY ...

I'M SO SCARED... PLEASE HOLD ME TIGHT.

MIAKA ...

LET'S LIVE HERE FOR-EVER!

LET'S STAY TOGETHER ...

I'M... SORRY. I'M OUT OF STRENGTH ...

!!

CAN I STAY HERE... FOR A WHILE?

I CAN NEVER STAY AWAY FROM *YOU*, TAMA-HOME.

...BUT I CAN'T MOVE !

TAMA-HOME'S THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO TOUCH ME LIKE THIS...

WHAT IS GOING ON?

AH!
AMIBOSHI... I MEAN HUAIKE...
...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING !?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE...
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, THE WORLD CAN'T *HURT* YOU ANYMORE!
"LET'S STAY TOGETHER
"LET'S LIVE HERE FOREVER!"

CHAPTER FIFTY-SIX

DAWN FOR THE HEART

THIS IS A PEACEFUL VILLAGE. THEY'RE ALL NICE PEOPLE.

YOU'LL BE SAFE AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE. AND MOTHER AND FATHER WOULD BE DELIGHTED.

IF I'M HERE...

...THE WORLD CAN'T...

...HURT ME.

GASP !!

OH, NO!

TAMA-HOME!

TAMA-HOME !!

BUT IT'S ON THE *INSIDE* THAT YOU'RE ALL TORN UP.

YOUR SKIN IS PERFECT.

S-S-STOP! O-OR I'LL...

...I'LL BITE OFF MY NOSE AND BLEED TO DEATH !!

EH?

!

ISN'T THE OLD THREAT, "I'LL BITE OFF MY *TONGUE*"?

ぱっ

IT MUST BE THE HEAT. LET'S GO INSIDE AND REST...

OH... MY BODY SUDDENLY FEELS SO HOT... THAT'S WEIRD.

WHAT'S WRONG ?

MI...AKA ?

YOUR FEVER'S DOWN. TAKE ANOTHER DAY TO REST UP.

ALSO, TAKE THE DAY TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I SAID.

LIVE HERE FOR-EVER ?

....

THAT CHI...DID YOU FEEL IT?

YEAH... THAT WAS MY BROTHER'S. THAT'S *AMI-BOSHI'S* CHI!

SUBOSHI !

WHEN HIS CHI IS RELEASED, IT'S THROUGH HIS MOUTH. LONG AGO I HAD A HIGH FEVER, AND HE REPLENISHED ME DIRECTLY WITH HIS CHI... BUT NORMALLY HE USED HIS FLUTE.

BUT... I HEAR NO FLUTE.

WHEN THE NECK?

I NOW KNOW THE LOCATION...

...OF THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

I SEE. OF COURSE !

SUCH WORK COMES NATURALLY TO AN EXPERIENCED PROSTITUTE.

NICE WORK. YOU PUT AN APHRODISIAC ON YOUR LIPS.

OH, NO!

...SO I WILL USE THE BEDDING TECHNIQUE TO DRIVE YOU INSANE AND LEAVE YOU TO ROT IN THE DESERT.

HA HA HA HA HA!

NOW, AS YOU HALLUCINATE AN EMBRACE WITH YOUR BELOVED PRIESTESS...

(Continued)...
Now to continue with the southern Suzaku constellations.
The South had a symbolic meaning for the ancient Chinese emperor. While the Heavenly Ruler (Tai Yi-Jun) took care of the heavens, the earthly emperor was to rule the world from his throne in the south. A-how lucky can Hotohori get?
The symbol for the South, the character for "Su" in Suzaku, represented the holy power of eternal life. In other words, the bird of eternal life (the Hōō, firebird or Phoenix). Amazingly, it was thought that once Suzaku was summoned, eternal peace would reign over the land!! Is that true, China!? That's the plot of Fushigi Yûgi! I was shocked!
Later this "North Star 28 Constellation Astrology" was applied, not only to the national interests, but to individuals as well. Suzaku guides the fates of love (with the name Hōō, the "Hō" part is male, and the "ō" part is female). So the Chinese people used to pray for love to the Suzaku constellations in the south. Best of luck!
By the way, I had no idea this kind of astrology even existed in Ancient China. It shocked the heck out of me!
Or maybe it was no coincidence that I chose the Suzaku for Miaka! L-Love? Well, I suppose. Also, when I began this story, I came up with the characters and assigned each of them to constellations. But much to my surprise, when I casually looked up their meanings, I discovered (this really bowls me over!) that many of the stars corresponded to the characters' personalities!

To be continued...

WHEN WE FOUND THE BOY IN THE RIVER, IT WAS ALMOST AS IF OUR SON HAD COME BACK. WE WERE SO AFRAID OF LOSING HIM AGAIN.
IT WAS MY FAULT. I PUT OBLIVION HERB IN THE SOUP.
LONG AGO WE HAD A SON NAMED HUAIKE, BUT WE LOST HIM.
BOW
O-OH, DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU! SEE? I'M FINE! I'M 100% !!
PLEASE FORGIVE US!!
AH! MIAKA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?
SO, MIAKA ...

"MIAKA!! WHY DON'T YOU *ANSWER* ME-- !??"

YUI !

YUI ENTERED THE WORLD OF THE BOOK TO RESCUE ME AND ENDED UP GETTING ATTACKED INSTEAD

I THINK I UNDERSTAND YOU NOW. YOUR SADNESS. YOUR RESENTMENT... YOUR HATE. I KNOW NOW WHY YOU AIMED YOUR HATRED AT ME.

NOW THAT THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME, I UNDERSTAND.

HUAIKE IS REALLY TAKEN BY YOU. IF YOU COULD SEE IT IN YOUR HEART...

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK AFTER WHAT I DID, BUT I WISH YOU WOULD STAY.

I'LL NEVER SEE TAMAHOME AGAIN...

I'LL NEVER SUMMON SUZAKU. I HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

OH, AND I MENDED AND WASHED YOUR CLOTHES... I HOPE YOU NEVER HAVE TO WEAR THEM THOUGH. PLEASE STAY HERE INSTEAD.

STAY HERE FOR-EVER.

...MIAKA..

MIAKA!!

MIAKA.

I DIDN'T KNOW. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING.

I WONDER WHAT IT FELT LIKE. NAKAGO TELLING HER THAT I BETRAYED HER *EVERY DAY.*

IT'S OBLIVION HERB.

TAKE A SIP, AND YOU'LL FORGET EVERY-THING.

HERE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

MEOW, MYAA, *MEOW!* (..BUT THIS IS WHO SHE *REALLY* IS!)

GET IT? GET IT?

MEOW, ME-*MEOW!* (TAMAHOME, SHE MAY *LOOK* LIKE MIAKA...)

NOTE: THE CAT ISN'T UNDER THE SPELL.

OH, NO!

OH, NO!

OH, NO!

MIAKA ...

IF ONLY I COULD SPEAK THEIR DUMB LANGUAGE!

I *KNEW* IT WOULDN'T WORK

I DO TOO.

I LOVE YOU.

WHILE YOU DRINK, CONCENTRATE AND SAY, "I WANT TO FORGET EVERY-THING."

I LOVE YOU ...

AND YOU WON'T SUFFER ANYMORE! IT'S *BEST* FOR YOU!

GIVE IT A TRY.

IF I DRINK THIS...

...MY SUFFERING WILL BE OVER.

MY PAIN...

...CAN BE FOR-GOTTEN !

YUI? AND...

I'LL FORGET IT ALL?

NURIKO'S DEATH? THE OTHER WARRIORS?

I'M GOING TO FORGET THEM ALL !?

...THE MAN WHO STILL LOVES ME DESPITE EVERYTHING. TAMAHOME !

...

TAMA-HOME?

WHAT'S WRONG ?

.....

I BELIEVE IN YOU...

...MIAKA !

I CAN'T.

I WANT TO...

...BUT NOT NOW.

B-BUT NAKAGO TOOK ME ALREADY... I'VE BEEN DEFILED...

YOU HAVEN'T SUMMONED SUZAKU YET.

WH-- WHY !?

DON'T YOU *WANT* YOUR SUFFERING TO END !?

I... I *CAN'T* FORGET!

WHY ?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT IF WE GIVE UP OUR WISHES, IF WE GIVE UP OUR HOPES, THEN ALL REALLY WILL BE LOST!

IF THERE IS EVEN A SLIVER OF A CHANCE ...

NO... I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING. I AM A SEIRYU CELESTIAL WARRIOR. YOUR ENEMY.

YES.

AMI... BOSHI !

I WANTED TO DIE.

I FELL INTO THE RIVER ON PURPOSE.

WHY!? WHY DID YOU FAKE AMNESIA !?

IS ONE OF THEM TAMAHOME? WHAT ABOUT HIM? DIDN'T YOU PROMISE TO NEVER LEAVE HIM ?

THEY'RE PEOPLE WHO *LOVE* ME!! THEY'VE SAVED MY *LIFE!!* I *CARE* FOR THEM!

I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO FORGET THEM !!

EH?

D-DO YOU...

WHAT-- WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY !?

AS I FELL INTO THE RIVER, I THOUGHT THAT MY DEATH WOULD PREVENT THE SUMMONING OF SEIRYU. I WAS JUST FED UP WITH FIGHTING.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE IN ANYMORE... AS A SEIRYU WARRIOR, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT YOU.

IF THAT WERE TRUE, THE WAR WOULD KILL COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF PEOPLE

THERE IS A WAY TO SUMMON SUZAKU AND SEIRYU, EVEN WITHOUT ALL THE CELESTIAL WARRIORS PRESENT.

WHAT !?

THEN STAY HERE! WE WON'T HAVE TO FIGHT ANYMORE !!

WAR IS *POINTLESS!!* MIAKA, YOU THINK SO TOO, RIGHT !?

WHEN I BECAME A SPY POSING AS CHIRIKO AND LIVING AS A SUZAKU WARRIOR...

...I FELT THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE.

UNLIKE HONG-NAN, MY HOMELAND QU-DONG IS IN A STATE OF CONSTANT CIVIL STRIFE... MY BROTHER SUBOSHI AND I WERE ORPHANS.

WHEN HER EMINENCE YUI APPEARED FROM THE OTHER WORLD, I FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT ONCE SEIRYU WAS SUMMONED, QU-DONG WOULD FIND PEACE.

BUT THEN I REALIZED... THAT QU-DONG'S INTENTIONS WERE TO USE SEIRYU TO DOMINATE NOT ONLY HONG-NAN, BUT BEI-JIA AND XI-LANG AS WELL.

!!

NAKAGO !

NAKAGO INSISTED THAT YOUR SUMMONING OF SUZAKU WOULD PREVENT THAT PEACE.

IF YUI REALIZED HOW NAKAGO WAS DECEIVING HER, SHE'D UNDERSTAND! AFTER THAT SHE'D NEVER LISTEN TO NAKAGO OR THE QU-DONG RULERS!

I CAN'T SUMMON SUZAKU ANYMORE. BUT SEIRYU CAN BE SUMMONED, RIGHT !?

WHAT !?

NO, I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA... I'LL HAVE YUI SUMMON SEIRYU!

NAKAGO IS DECEIVING HER SO HE CAN RULE THE WORLD !!

"HER EMINENCE WAS NEVER RAPED."

YUI IS BEING USED!

"SO YOU MUST HELP HER."

"NO DA."

"YUI LOVES YOU."

I HAVE TO GO!

GO!? WHERE ?

TO WHEREVER NAKAGO IS. I HAVE TO RESCUE YUI!

I'M CHANGING MY CLOTHES SO TURN AWAY

YOU'RE GOING ALONE? RIGHT INTO THE ENEMY'S CAMP? AREN'T YOU AFRAID!?

YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, BUT...

A LONG TIME AGO, SOMEBODY TOLD ME...

IF YOU RUN AWAY BECAUSE YOU "CAN'T DO IT" OR BECAUSE YOU THINK SOMETHING'S "IMPOSSIBLE"... THEN YOU'LL BECOME A COWARD AS AN ADULT.

...THE KANJI CHARACTERS FOR "BATTLE" AND "RUNNING AWAY" DIFFER BY ONLY A FEW LINES...AND YET THEIR MEANINGS ARE EXACTLY OPPOSITE.

IS THIS MAN...

...SO MUCH IN *LOVE* WITH THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU !?

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! IT'S MY MOST POWERFUL APHRODISIAC, YET HE'S IN CONTROL!

HOW CAN HE DO IT?

SURE, I'M AFRAID! I'D LOVE TO RUN! BUT BECOMING A COWARD ISN'T IN MY PLANS!

SO I WON'T *RUN.* I'LL *BATTLE* IT THROUGH!

WHO ARE YOU !?

PERHAPS YOUR SEDUCTION SKILLS HAVE ATROPHIED.

SO!, YOU FAILED.

DON'T WORRY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE HERE. I'LL GO ALONE!

MY ANKLE SEEMS FINE TOO.

BUT... ...WHY ?

BUT... ...WHY ?

Enemy

WH-WHAT IS IT !?

!!OOOOH!!

AND THE LOVE BETWEEN TAMAHOME AND I...

...WILL ALSO END.

HUAIKE'S PARENTS !!

!!

...THAT YOU, TAMAHOME, SHALL NOW DIE.

MY NAME IS TOMO. AND I'M SORRY TO SAY...

WE'LL SUMMON SEIRYU TO BRING *PEACE* TO THE WORLD.

GETTING HER TO SEE THAT I'M A FRIEND WON'T BE EASY. BUT THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS IS TO SUMMON SEIRYU. I'LL *NEVER* LET NAKAGO HAVE HIS WAY!

WE'LL BE NORMAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, TAKING OUR ENTRANCE EXAMS, ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL.

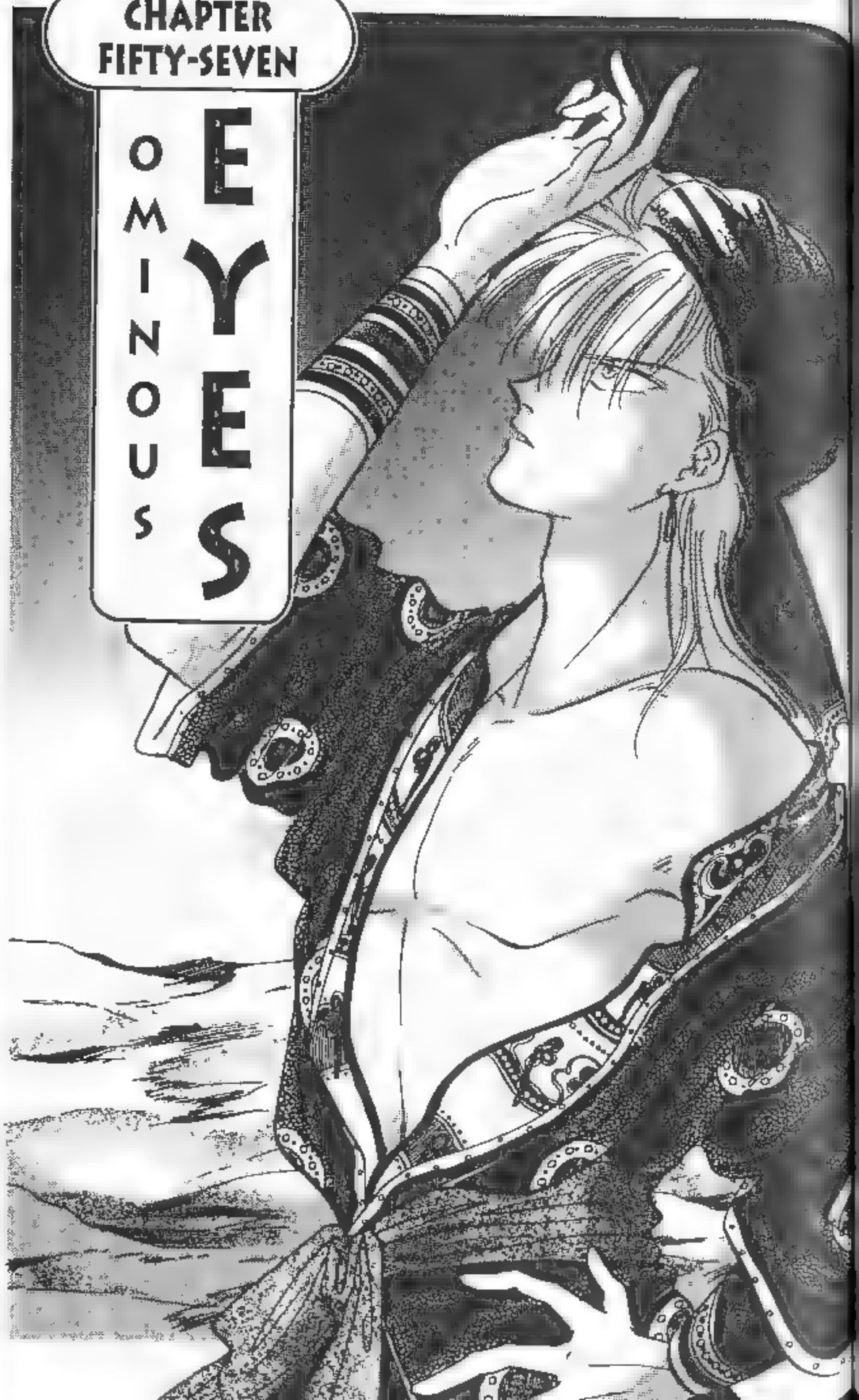
THEN WE'LL GO HOME... TO *OUR* HOME.

I HAVE TO FIND YUI, NO MATTER WHAT !

THAT'S BEST. EVERYTHING WILL BE RESOLVED. IT'LL BE OVER.

CHAPTER FIFTY-SEVEN

OMINOUS EYES



Thank you for sending me all those dōjinshi and tapes, Ms. Haruta (great parody!). It was all really interesting! The Tasuki novel and the notebook with all your friends' drawings! I also received a "Ranma 1/2" video and cute illustrations from someone who is now an animator. I'd like to have all the fan art and character portraits from you readers displayed somewhere. Can I?

BGM: Final Fantasy IV (5 CD set)

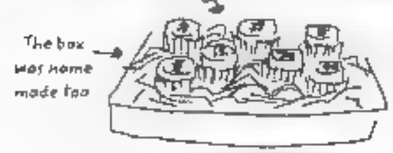
There were so many others I received. Even ones that had love letters (?) to Fushigi characters. Everyone was so thrilled. There was one that was called "Nuriko in Heaven." A note to the fan who sent a gift to Mitsukake, in the CD Book II, he talks a lot more than he does in the manga. In fact he even laughs.

From Volume 7 (Ah, the memories!)

Long Overdue - Fushigi Akugi The Malicious Play (8)

The idea came from several readers. I still don't know your names! Sorry ♡

The names of each celestial warrior were written on each of these handmade chocolates.



Seven Celestial Chocolate

I had quite a few that were home made. Here are two samples.

I ran out of space to write this in Volume 9, but I wanted to thank you for all the Valentine's Day chocolates. (Come on, that was so long ago.) Thank you so much.

NAKAGO!

HE DESTROYED THE VILLAGE!

BUT HE'S NOT AFTER YOU, AMIBOSHI...

WHAT?

THIS IS A QU-DONG ARROW! SO THEY *DID* FIND ME!

NAKAGO MUST HAVE DETECTED IT... AND FOUND ME.

I USED MY CHI TO EASE YOUR FEVER.

BUT WHY? HE'S DEFILED ME. I CAN'T SUMMON SUZAKU ANYMORE.

HE WANTS ME! NAKAGO REALIZED I WAS HERE!

FATHER! MOTHER!

HURRY! GET THEM INSIDE!

SLASH

WH-WHY!?

IT'S NOT THAT BAD. THEY GOT MY ARM, AND YOUR MOTHER'S ONLY FAINTED.

AMI-BOSHI!

AMIBOSHI'S FATHER AND MOTHER! WHAT COULD HAVE--?

MIAKA...

ARRGH!!

BURST !!

AAAHH!!

SO YOU *ARE* HERE, PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU!

STEP BACK, MIAKA! AND... DON'T WATCH THIS!

YOU WILL COME WITH ME!

ATTACKING INNOCENT VILLAGERS LIKE THIS ...

IN ANY CASE, THIS IS TOO MUCH!

MIAKA, WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO OUT THERE!

I'M GOING! NAKAGO NEEDS A GOOD PUNCHING OUT!!

YOU'RE CALLED... TOMO, AREN'T YOU?

...THAT *CLOWN SUIT* YOU HAVE ON?

DON'T YOU REGRET..

MY MAKEUP IS SYMBOLIC. INDIGO REPRESENTS STRATEGY. BLACK IS LOYALTY...

...CONTRASTED AGAINST THE BRIGHT GOLD OF HARMONY...

...HOW I PITY YOUNG MEN THESE DAYS WITH NO UNDERSTANDING OF TRUE ART.

HEH.

THOSE FEATHERS ARE SO LAME !

NO SENSE FOR USING MAKEUP !

THOSE GAUDY PRIMARY COLORS !

HOW CAN YOU EVEN STEP OUTSIDE IN THAT GET-UP?

THIS WON'T IMPRESS THE GIRLS!

SEE YA !!

HEY !!

TOMO TAMA-HOME TOOK OFF.

AMI-BOSHI... !!

DON'T WORRY. THE SOUND TOOK OUT ONE MAN HIDING AROUND THE CORNER AND TWO OTHERS NEAR THE TREE.

TAMA-HOME... YOU WILL STAY HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY.

ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT AN ILLUSION TOOK CONTROL OF YOU?

I FEEL SOMEONE'S CHI... IT'S HUGE!

AMI-BOSHI ?

IS THIS... TOMO !?

THEY'LL SOON BE DEAD. NOT AS SOON AS *YOU*, HOWEVER.

MY FRIENDS !?

TAMA-HOME !!

!?

WHAT'S THAT ?

I CAN'T WASTE MY TIME WITH THAT WEIRDO!

!!

THE LIGHTS OF THE XI-LANG CAPITAL. THE *REAL* XI-LANG.

THE DESERT VERSION, IN WHICH YOUR FRIENDS ARE DYING OF ESPOSURE, IS AN ILLUSION.

Here are the details. First, Tamahome. When I found out the meaning for his character was "man with courage," I stopped short! I started looking up the other characters and burst out laughing.

"Nuriko" = graceful beauty.
"Hotonori" = a highly ranked person.
"Tasuki" = help, assistance, protection.

Then, "Chichiri" means home town. "Chiriko" means to widen and spread. "Mitsukake" means to suffer. As for the Seiryu warriors—*Are you even interested?*—I hadn't checked them before so I'll look them up now! *Watase pulls out her Kanji character dictionary.*

"Su" of "Suboshi" = to compete, fight. *Wow*
"Ami" of "Amiboshi" = go far, cut off
"Soi" = to draw near, to be wed
"Tomo" = despicable... Ha ha!
"Asnitare" = back, the end.
"Mi" of "Miboshi" = trash collecting, and...

What the--? Now this is a shock for Watase!! "...sitting cross-legged"!? Those who've been reading FY serialized in the magazine must know how Miboshi has always remained in that sitting position the whole time!! Geez!!
"Nakago" = prudence (strategy, maybe?), center, consecrate... hmm. *dg* There are a lot of other meanings, but I highlighted the ones that match him.
Oh yeah, my assistant did a reading of Tamahome's name and found that it signified "poverty, looks after others, loses family, gentle in appearance, but strong inside" (wait, isn't it the other way around?) That really took me by surprise. *dgg*
You might think I'm lying, but this was all a coincidence. Really! I find it a little frightening myself.

The world can work in mysterious ways...!!

HOW WAS IT? THE BODY OF A GIRL YOU CAN NEVER TOUCH NO MATTER YOUR ADORATION.

A MERE RECOLLECTION OF HER WARMTH SETS YOU ON FIRE.

HA HA HAAA!

DON'T..

...USE TWISTED WORDS FOR *HER!!*

WH- WHAT IS THIS, YOU PERVERT !?!

HA HA HAA.

THE BODY CANNOT LIE.

IT FEELS NICE, DOESN'T IT?

A SIMPLE ILLUSION, BUT ISN'T IT AS SOFT AS THE SKIN OF YOUR PRIESTESS ?

IT'S NOT IN MY NATURE TO CAUSE PAIN.

YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER SOON.

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DIE A PLEASURABLE DEATH.

RRNN!!

TELL ME HOW THE THORNS FEEL.

I'M SURPRISED THAT SOI'S APHRODI-SIAC DIDN'T HOLD YOU.

I WENT THROUGH SUCH TROUBLE TO MAKE HER LOOK LIKE YOUR BELOVED.

I HAVE TO SEE YUI AND GET US BOTH BACK TO OUR OWN WORLD!

I'M SORRY, AMIBOSHI ...

"WAIT FOR ME HERE!!"

BUT I JUST DON'T DESERVE HIM.

I *DO* WANT TO SEE TAMA-HOME.

BUT...

YUI AND NAKAGO ARE PROBABLY HEADING TO XI-LANG.

!!

...I'M RUNNING *AWAY* FROM TAMAHOME.

I WONDER... SHOULD I DEFILE THAT SACRED LOVE OF YOURS?

YOUR "SACRED LOVE"? YOU ARE SO NAÏVE!

!!

SHE'S MY--

TAKE IT BACK !!

IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO MIAKA...

...I'LL *KILL* YOU, YOU BASTARD !!

SO!!

AH--

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU?

YOUR BELOVED TAMAHOME ISN'T HERE.

...!?

TAMAHOME AND I ARE...

YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU'RE NOT TOGETHER? THAT'S NOT WHAT *HE* SAYS.

SO YOU SAW HIM!?

HE MAY BE MY ENEMY, BUT HIS COURAGE IMPRESSED ME. HE TOLD ME THAT EVEN IF HOPE IS GONE, WE SHOULD STILL HAVE FAITH.

...

TRUE. I WONDER THE SAME THING.

IF YOU ACTUALLY *HAD* INTER-COURSE WITH NAKAGO...

...WHY...

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS? WHY DON'T YOU KILL ME!?

...I'M CERTAIN I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.

WHAT A FOOL.

SHE RISKS HERSELF FOR NOTHING MORE THAN A *MAN.*

!!

TMP

TAMA-HOME!

TAMA-HOME !!

BUT I MUST ADMIT THAT THE TWO OF YOU...

...BRING OUT THE *ENVY* IN ME.

"YOU *HAVE* TO BE TOGETHER!"

DOES THAT MEAN... THAT I'M...

WHAT !?

...STILL A VIRGIN !?

GASP

TAMAHOME IS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE ON THAT CLIFF.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S BEST NOT TO GO.

TAMA-HOME!

BECAUSE THAT WILL BE THE END OF YOU...

BACK AWAY FROM TAMA-HOME *NOW,* TOMO!!

!!

...HUH?

SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

GET AWAY FROM HIM OR ELSE!

SUBO-SHI...?

NO.

YOU'RE AMIBO-SHI!

DIDN'T YOU SAY THE SAME WHEN YOU WOUNDED NAKAGO?

WE MUST KEEP YOU FROM SAYING IT AGAIN.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, TOMO!?

AAHHH...

TAMA-HOME!

PLEASE BE ALL RIGHT!

YOU'LL KILL *ME?*

MIAKA !!

OH, NO YOU DON'T !!

!?

I'M HERE, TAMA-HOME !!

AMI-BOSHI, WHAT ARE ...

HEH... WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING?

LIKE YOU, I AM A SEIRYU WARRIOR. ARE YOU PLANNING TO *FIGHT* ME?

TAMAHOME!!

...MIAKA...

TAMA-
HOME
!

HEH!
DID HE
THINK
I'D SIT
STILL
FOR HIM?

GAGH!

TAMAHOME!!

THAT'S GREAT.

REALLY !?

YES !

...I FELL AND HURT MY LEG. HE RESCUED ME.

AMI-BOSHI...

THAT'S JUST WONDER-FUL !!

....

P-PLEASE FORGIVE MY BETRAYAL AT THE CEREMONY.

HE SWORE TO BRING YOU BACK. HE DID EVERYTHING HE COULD FOR US.

TAMA-HOME... I'M SO SORRY!

TAMA-HOME !!

....

SQU EEE EEZ

OW WW WW !!

MIAKA... IS IT REALLY YOU... ?

I CAN STILL SUMMON SUZAKU !

TAMA-HOME... NAKAGO NEVER TOUCHED ME!

...UH...

TAMA-HOME !!

TAMA-HOME ...

HEY, WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT ?

!

WHEN WAS THAT AGAIN ?

TAMA-HOME, WATCH OU--

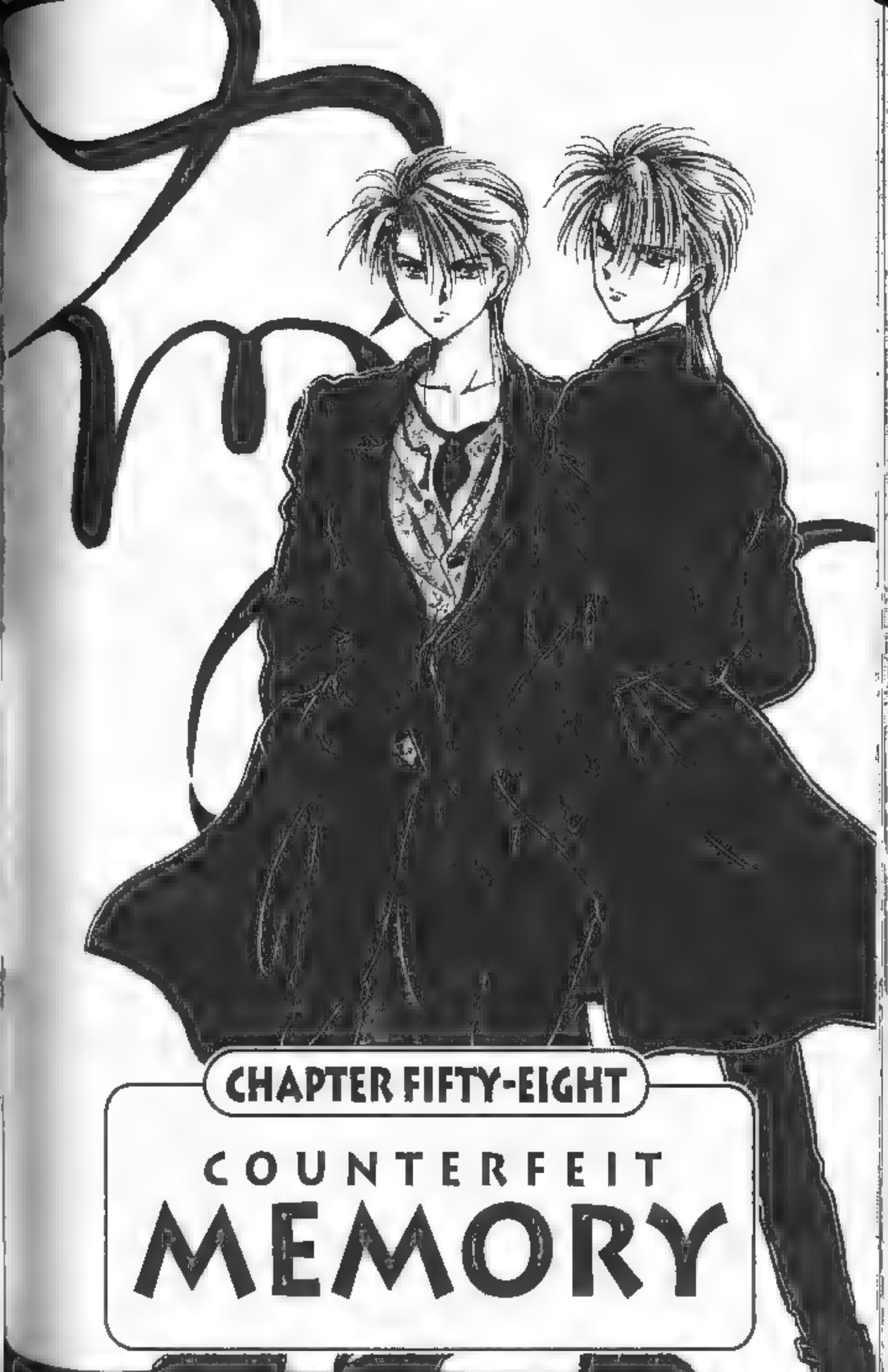
AMI-BOSHI !?

...MI...
...AKA...

HA!
LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES. THAT WAS ONLY MY DOUBLE.

TAMA-HOME !!

DOUBLE... !?



CHAPTER FIFTY-EIGHT

COUNTERFEIT MEMORY

R... RUN...

TAMA..
HOME...

NO...

NOOOOOO!!!

...OR YOU'LL FALL UNDER HIS ILLU-SION!!

GASP!

MIAKA!! HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER...

TAMAHOME!!

WHY ARE YOU PULLING US APART?

WE JUST WANT TO BE *WITH* EACH OTHER.

GIVE HIM BACK... GIVE HIM...

WHY !?

AND YOU CAN BE GRATEFUL FOR MY KINDNESS.

HA HA HA HA HA HA!

ACCEPT HIS DEATH. AND I WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO A WONDERFUL WORLD!

YOU'RE LYING!! HE *CAN'T* BE DEAD!!

OH, *NO* !!

!!

IMPOSSIBLE, I'M AFRAID. YOU SAW IT. DID YOU NOT? SAW HIM DIE.

WH-WHERE AM I !?

HA HA! MY SKILLS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF YOU, PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU.

TAMA-HOME... GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!!

DINNNGG DONNNGG

DINNNGG DONNNGG

WUMP

GIMME! GIMME! GIMME! GIMME!

WUMP

MIAKA !

THAT *WAS* THE TEACHER !!

WHAT !?

GIMME BACK MY GUY !!

.....

I DON'T REMEMBER.

"GIMME BACK MY GUY??" WHAT KIND OF DREAM *WAS* THAT?

YOU *KNOW* HE'S THE ONE TEACHER YOU SHOULDN'T GET TICKED OFF!

YŪK, YOU'RE SUCH A SPAZ

HAAA HAA

HA HA

.....?

SO MUCH FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS GETTING INTO HIGH SCHOOL

COME ON, YU!! DON'T SCARE ME!

A DREAM...?

YŪ--

DINNNGG DONNNGG

DINNNGG DONNNGG

MY... JUNIOR HIGH...

...CLASS?

AFTER HOMEROOM, YOU'RE COMING TO THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE WITH ME!! *GOT THAT!?*

A STUDENT WHO FALLS ASLEEP INSTEAD OF STUDYING FOR HER ENTRANCE EXAMS MUST BE EITHER FEARLESS OR JUST *STUPID!!*

YUK!!

HA AA HA AA

YUK!!

IDIOT.

WHAMM

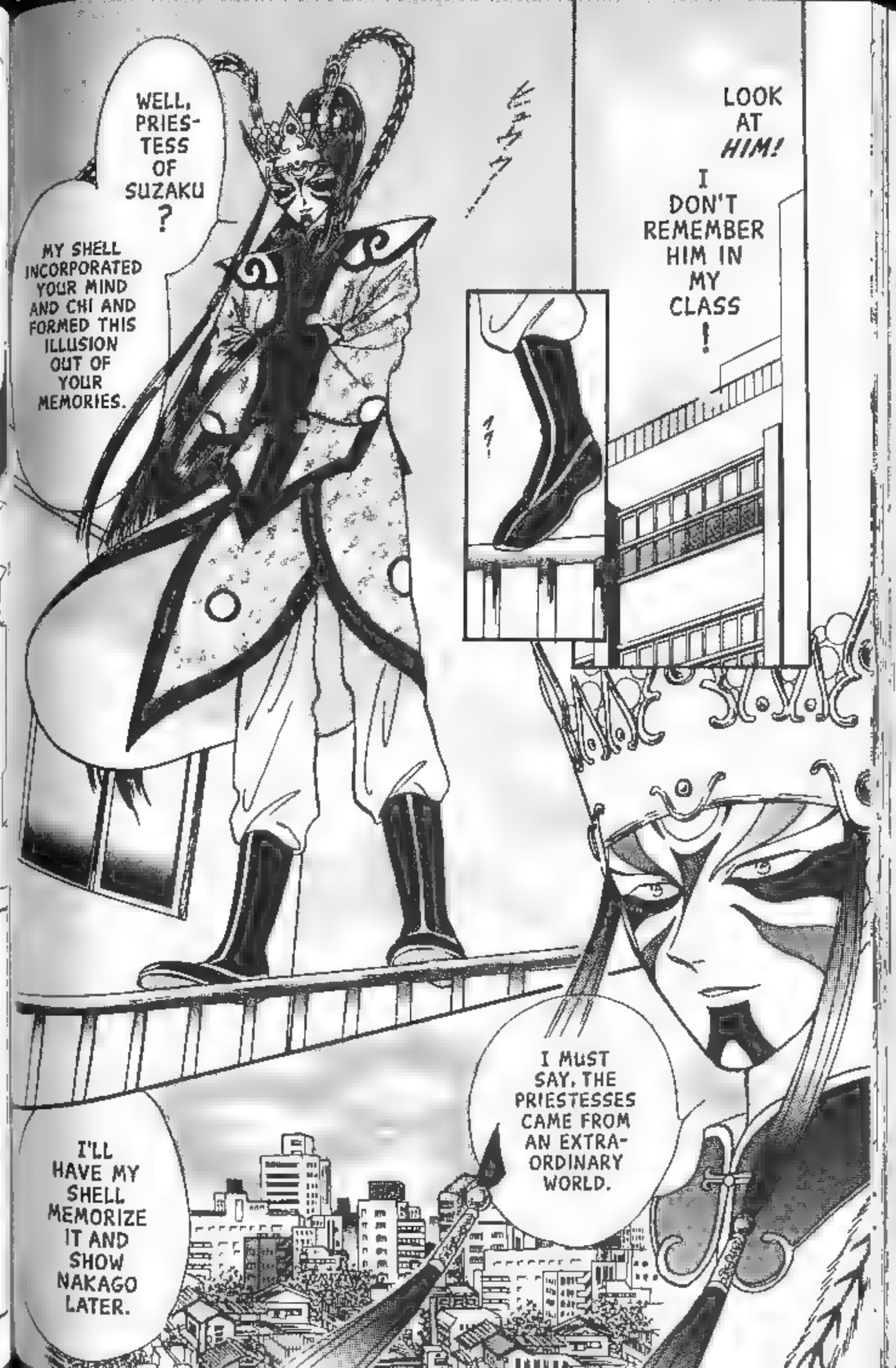
I'M SORRY, SIR! BOW

YEAH, I GOT IT.

Now to change the subject. Here, something I read in your recent fan mail. It says that "Fushigi Yûgi" graphic novels and merchandise showed up on TV in Honakin Dataland. I didn't know about it at all and didn't watch the series. My editors didn't know about it either! Meanwhile, my '94 calendar showed up all the time in the TV drama Tanin no Fuko wa Mitsu no Aji ("The Delicious Woes of Others") which made me happy! *It was a while ago.*

By the way, the second CD book will be released on August 3. This time, it is amazing, if I do say so myself. First of all, there are so many voice actors. 24 actors. 24!! There are the leads Noriko Hidaka (Miaka), Toshihiko Seki (Tamahome), Wakana Yamazaki (Yui), Yasunori Matsumoto (Hotohori), Minami Takayama (Nuriko), Rin Mizuhara (Tai Yi-Jun)!! Then on top of that, Kazuki Yao (Tasuki), Kappei Yamaguchi (Chichiri), Megumi Ogasa (Chiriko), Jurota Osugi (Mitsukake), Tetsuya Iwanaga (Amiboshi), and Ryutaro Okiayu (Nakago) were in it. Eiji Yanagisawa and Toru Furusawa gave a fierce (so fierce it terrified me) performance as the men attacking Yui I was so impressed I had to write them all down!! My right hand's trembling. What a terrific cast!! *Tremble, tremble!* They're all on the same recording! What a great deal I actualy visited a recording session at the studio... but given my origins as an anime fan, I completely lost control, went haywire, lost my mind, went nuts, etc.

OH, BOY! OH, BOY!
OH, BOY! OH, BOY!


WELL, PRIES-TESS OF SUZAKU ?
MY SHELL INCORPORATED YOUR MIND AND CHI AND FORMED THIS ILLUSION OUT OF YOUR MEMORIES.
LOOK AT *HIM!*
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM IN MY CLASS !
I'LL HAVE MY SHELL MEMORIZE IT AND SHOW NAKAGO LATER.
I MUST SAY, THE PRIESTESSES CAME FROM AN EXTRA-ORDINARY WORLD.

I THOUGHT YOU'D GET CHEWED OUT FOR SURE. BUT YOU'RE SMILING!

HERE'S YOUR COAT AND BAG.

YOU WAITED FOR ME?

AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ONLY SQUEAK BY!

WHATTA RELIEF!

I'M GETTING INTO JONAN HIGH SCHOOL!

MIAKA!

KU

HEY! HOW ABOUT WE GET A BITE TO EAT.

WHOO-HOOO!

ODDLY, I'M HUNGRY TODAY.

ODDLY, YOU'RE HUNGRY ALL THE TIME.

...THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO TAKE YOUR STUDIES LIGHTLY.

I KNOW THAT YOUR GRADES CAN GET YOU INTO ANY SCHOOL YOU WANT, BUT...

I'VE TOLD YOU THAT FOR YEARS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER !?!

HURRAH

JAPAN'S NO. 1

I-I'M SORRY... COULD YOU REPEAT THAT!?

NO! I MEAN, BEFORE THAT!

THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO--

KU

YOUR GRADES CAN GET YOU INTO ANY SCHOOL YOU WANT.

?

I DIDN'T *KNOW!*

THANK YOU, SIR!

YOU'VE LIKED THIS GUY FOREVER, RIGHT? THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! GO FOR IT!

WHOA

IDIOT! YOU WANT US TO DO THIS!

HUH! WHY !?

EH...

YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE BUMP. DO YOU FEEL SICK?

THE BALL HIT YOU PRETTY HARD

NURSE'S OFFICE

"LIKED"...? OH, I GUESS I HAVE.

LET'S GO.

THIS PAST YEAR EVER SINCE WE BECAME CLASSMATES, I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON HIM...

AONO !

THIS BOY!!

LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY! LET'S GO SEE THE NURSE!

EH? BUT...

MY HEAD! IF I GET ANY DUMBER, SOMEBODY'S GONNA PAY!

DON'T WORRY! YOU CAN'T GET ANY DUMBER !

MIAKA, ARE YOU OKAY !?

I'M SORRY !!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?

GRIN GRIN

SEE YOU, MIAKA. WE'LL JUST HEAD ON HOME.

EH?

YOU'RE TAKING EXAMS FOR JONAN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?

...LOOK WHAT IT *DID* TO YOU!

MAYBE IT'S TIME I QUIT THE SOCCER CLUB...

O-OH, I'M FINE. I GUESS I LOOK A LITTLE LIKE A GOAL POST.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

YUI SAID IT WAS MY CHANCE.

...I'M TRYING FOR THE SAME SCHOOL.

YOU SEE, SINCE YOU'RE GOING THERE...

I AM, TOO.

WOW-EEE-EEE!

D-DOES THAT MEAN...

WHAT?

AND I'D REALLY LIKE YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME.

...BUT I LIKE YOU.

I WANTED TO WAIT UNTIL WE BOTH PASSED THE EXAMS AND GOT IN...

WHAAAAT!?

TOMO!!

THAT IS *SO* SWEET.

HA HA...

DON'T BLAME ME! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO USED UP ALL OF THE HERB!

DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO DRAG ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

AMI-BOSHI... YOU *ARE* NAIVE, AREN'T YOU?

A WOMAN WHO HAS JUST WITNESSED THE MURDER OF HER BELOVED WILL DO ANYTHING TO ESCAPE AN UNBEARABLE REALITY.

THIS HAPPY FANTASY WAS SOUGHT BY THE PRIESTESS HERSELF.

HM? LOOK OVER THERE...

THE ONLY PLACE IT GROWS IS UNDER THE BUDDHA STATUE!

IT GETS TOO HOT TO LOOK DURING THE DAY

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW I CAN CREATE NUMEROUS ILLUSIONARY DOUBLES? THEY ARE, IN FACT, ME.

AND ONE OF ME WILL BE THE ONE TO TAKE HER VIRGINITY.

HA HA... THIS TECHNIQUE IS OF A DIFFERENT ORDER THAN WHAT I USED ON THE CELESTIAL WARRIORS.

I HAVE SEALED AWAY, NOT ONLY HER MIND, BUT HER BODY AS WELL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER!?

...WILL *NEVER* BE FOOLED BY YOUR *TRICKS* !!

M-- MIAKA...

MMBL MMBL

IT'S TRUE... I DISLIKE FORCING THE WILL OF WOMEN IN THIS WAY, BUT...

YUI'S GOING THERE... AND NOW, SO WILL AONO.

I REALLY WANTED TO GO TO YOTSUBADAI, BUT I'M A SHOO-IN FOR JONANI SO, IT'S ALL GOOD.

YOU ALL COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM YŪKI!

QUADRATIC EQUATIONS STUMPED ME IN CRAM SCHOOL, BUT I BREEZED RIGHT THROUGH THEM. EVEN THE *TEACHER* WAS NICE

"I LIKE YOU."

MIAKA, YOU'RE FLAVORING YOUR STEW WITH DROOL.

HEH HEH HEH

BEH HEH HEH

"AONO, THE GUY I'VE ALWAYS LIKED, SAID TODAY THAT HE LIKED ME!!"

WHAT A GREAT DAY TO PUT IN MY DIARY!

...AKA...

...MI...

GOOD, HE'S ALIVE!

UN NN

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!!

WOW! YOU MADE *ALL* MY FAVORITE DISHES!!

JUST KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

YAY!

WELL, YOUR GRADES ON YOUR PRACTICE TEST WERE SO GOOD.

OH ...

鬼

鬼 0
鬼常キ
おに
Oni, Ki, Demon

2. Constellation name. One of the 28 constellations of Chinese astrology. Tamahome.

WHAT ?

WHY IS MY...

...HEART BEATING SO FAST?

YOU CAN GIVE ME AN ANSWER NEXT TIME.

THIS FEELS LIKE A DREAM.

I'LL BE SO EMBARRASSED NEXT TIME I SEE HIM...

WHAT'S AONO'S FIRST NAME?

HUH ?

OH... LOOK AT THIS MESS!

AH! IT'S SO LATE! I GOTTA START STUDYING!

THAT'S WEIRD. I CAN'T REMEM-BER.

AONO!

WHY!?

THERE'S A HUGE LUMP IN MY THROAT!

Tamahome.

...AND I'LL CALM DOWN.

MAYBE I JUST NEED SOME AIR...

!

カラ

I HAD A QUICK QUESTION. UH, DON'T SLIP ON THE ICE THERE ...

OR... MAKE A NOTE OF IT FOR NEXT TIME.

AONO!? WHAT IS IT ?

キィ

YOU CAN...

...ASK ME OUT ANY TIME.

鬼

UM...

HEY...

I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE IT.

!

MY OLDER BROTHER... USED THIS PENCIL TO PASS HIS ENTRANCE EXAMS. IT'S GOOD LUCK.

I COULD'VE WAITED UNTIL SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW...

...BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE.

...IN THE SNOW TO GIVE THIS TO ME?

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY...

AONO...

...YOU REALLY CARE FOR ME.

THAT'S IT. SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR STUDIES.

SEE YOU TOMORROW

...AONO...

THAT'S *GREAT* !!

... REALLY ?

ARE YOU SURE !?

YES... I MEAN, I LIKE YOU TOO.

ME TOO.

I REALLY DO LIKE YOU.

AND NOW, I'LL NEVER LET GO.

YES.

MY NAME'S TOMO.

YOU CA CALL ME "TOMO."

TOMO... ?

YOU SO... AND BOD WILL MINE

AND YOU WILL BE TRAPPED IN THIS SHELL FOR ETERNITY.

...MIAKA.

HA HA... THIS IS TOO MUCH!

YOU *HAVE* TO REMEMBER TAMA-HOME!!

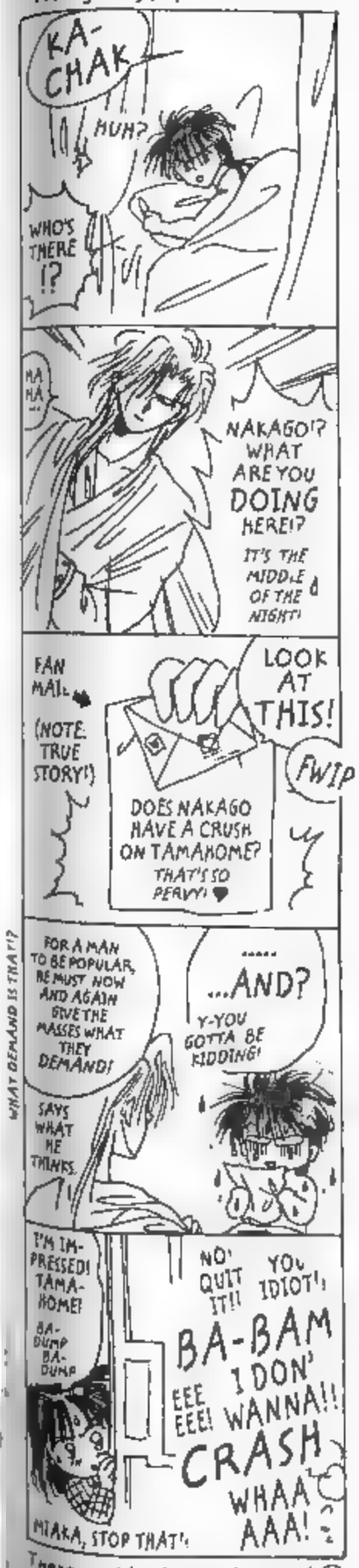
WAKE UP, MIAKA !!

CAN I CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME?

HAH! THAT WON'T DO ANY GOOD.

CHAPTER FIFTY-NINE
COUNTERFEIT LOVE

SPECIAL STRIP
What's So Fushigi about Fushigi Yūgi, Special Edition



There must be dojinshi like this! ☺ I heard there was one for Tasuki and Nuriko... I'd like to see it!

What's So Fushigi About Fushigi Yūgi #2

Hey, the name keeps on changing!

Q1. I know Miaka has spare clothes, but what is Yui doing about her clothes?
A. Yui has very nimble fingers. I'm sure she can sew her own underwear using silk-like fabrics! She probably has her uniform washed every night.

Q2: Is Tomo gay? I mean the outfit...
A: Yep. (To be blunt.) Tomo is homosexual. Furthermore, he's in love with Nakago! ☺ His criticisms of Nakago may be an expression of love. "Why," you ask. He just ended up this way. Those of you who know Chinese opera might've realized that I had the opera in mind for his character. The feathers are also from it. In fact, they might be even more gaudy in the actual opera.
After I first drew Tomo, I saw "Farewell My Concubine," and there was that scene where the female impersonator lead is in love with the male protagonist during the performance of "Front and Back." Which might make you think, "so it's a movie about gay guys." No, not at all!! The drama's much deeper than that. What a great movie! *Really!* Then there was also "M Butterfly" (about a man who doesn't realize the woman he falls for is in fact a man), and then this Chinese opera. .

Personally, a gay theme is no different from a straight theme for me. Those factors were simply in the atmosphere when I came up with Tomo. But ever since Fushigi began, assistant after assistant would not stop talking about it! ☺ With characters like this, I guess it's only natural. *What does ya thinks, Olive Oyl?* I guess everyone just got into it.
And so Tomo got his look and personality. By the way, I had the same kind of question with regard to Nakago (refer to left comic). Although he isn't gay, he wouldn't let gender stand in his way if he is attracted to someone. It seems natural if you think of it as attraction between people rather than attraction between the sexes.
That's what I thought after seeing "Farewell My Concubine."

And because of that... I was so nervous I started sweating! (My entire body was drenched!) My voice broke. Blood rushed to my head. I almost fainted. I just totally clammed up. . and couldn't even talk to them!! Dammit!!

It was so sad and pathetic. I really missed my chance!

I couldn't even look at them.ô Why am I so shy!? Argh!! If I could only be more social!! B-but, no!! Readers who know anime and voice actors must know what I'm talking about!! I mean voice actors are like super stars!!!

I would recall the voice of the character from the anime that I watched all through high school, and I'd realize, "S-so this person did." There was no way I could start up a conversation.ôü But finally a reporter from Animate arranged for a short interview with myself along with Mr. Seki, Mr. Matsumoto, Ms. Hidaka, and Ms. Yamazaki .. "Wow, we're actually breathing the same air in the same room!" Am I a sickie or WHAT!?☺ I actually sat next to Ms. Hidaka! She actually shook my hand. She actually shook my hand!! Pant, pant, pant. *She seemed so cheerful and kind.*

She and Ms. Yamazaki told me they had bought my graphic novels, and I almost burst out crying. Sniff, sniff... But I was so shy, I couldn't watch and had my back to them. I'm such an idiot! (During the entire time they were recording!) That's right! I hear that if you send in the survey form that comes with the CD, you'll get an autographed sign card with the signatures of all 12 voice actors and Yū Watase! Really!? They must be copies... One of them might be real! (I have one displayed in my room!♬) *I'm acting like a junior-high-school girl!!*

H-HE...

...KISSED ME!

UM MM ...

YOU DON'T DESERVE BOY-FRIEND BLISS!!

MIAKA, YOU'RE *BAD!*

SOME EXAM STUDENT YOU ARE!

... MIAKA !

?

HE'S THE GUY ALL THE GIRLS ARE CHASING! ARE YOU *SERIOUS*, MIAKA!?

WITH AONO ?

SO YOU'RE GOING OUT?

HA HA! YUP!

WHAT!?

YOU'RE MAKING US ILL, SPIT IT OUT!

?

YEAH, AND... ACTUALLY, THERE'S MORE TO IT.

SEE ...

TIME FOR JAPANESE-LIT STUDY HALL.

ANYBODY STUDYING FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAMS, GRAB A DICTIONARY AND MEMORIZE.

IS THIS BECAUSE MR. TAKAGI'S LATE FOR CLASSES *AGAIN?*

HE'S GOT TO GET IT TOGETHER!

I'M COOL. I GOT MY WORK-BOOK.

MY LUCKY DAY!

GIVE ME THE KANJI DICTION-ARY!

=AHEM= ALL KIDDING ASIDE, I'M GLAD YOL BOTH FEEL THE SAME WAY.

Y-YEAH... THANKS, YUI.

FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP

SO SERIOUS...

OH! HERE'S ONE. "LOOK UP PAGE 581!"

YEAH, AND THAT PAGE ALWAYS HAS SOME DIRTY WORD!

HEY! SOMEONE'S ALWAYS WRITING NOTES IN THESE SCHOOL DICTIONARIES TO LOOK ON A CERTAIN PAGE!

HA HA HA HA!

TOMO!

G-GOOD MORNING!

GOOD MORNING!

MIAKA, GOOD MORNING!

STOP IT, ALREADY!!

NO!! YOU TWO ARE SUCH PERVERTS!!

BUT WE MUSTN'T, TOMO! NOT HERE AT SCHOOL!

YOU KNOW, WE NEVER FINISHED LAST NIGHT'S KISS!!

HUGG

PAPP

MIAKA !

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

SOUTH GOD SUZAKU? A SUZAKU CONSTEL-LATION ?

I TOLD YOU TO *CUT IT OUT!!*

AAAAAH!

LET'S STUDY TO-GETHER.

OH!

UMM, MIAKA ?

MY FIRST KISS.

I KNEW I'D BE EMBAR-RASSED SEEING HIM AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY ...

DOKI

DOKI

DOKI

DOKI

DOKI

FLIP

EVERY-THING'S GOING THE WAY I WANT IT TO GO...

THANK GOODNESS FOR STUDY HALL TODAY. MR. TAKAGI'S SUCH A DRAG! HE ALWAYS MAKES ME DO THE READING.

FLIP FLIP

THERE IT IS AGAIN!

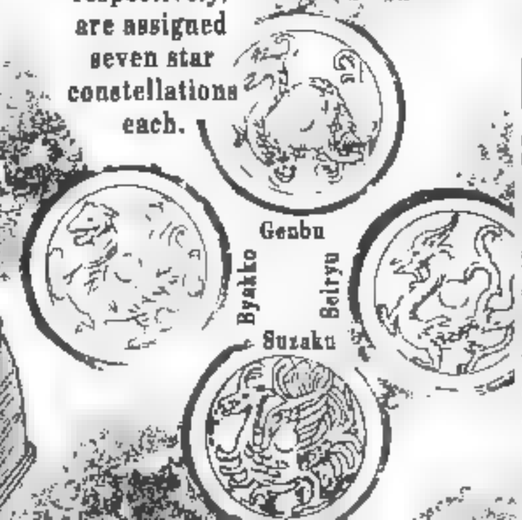
WHY IS MY HEART RACING ?

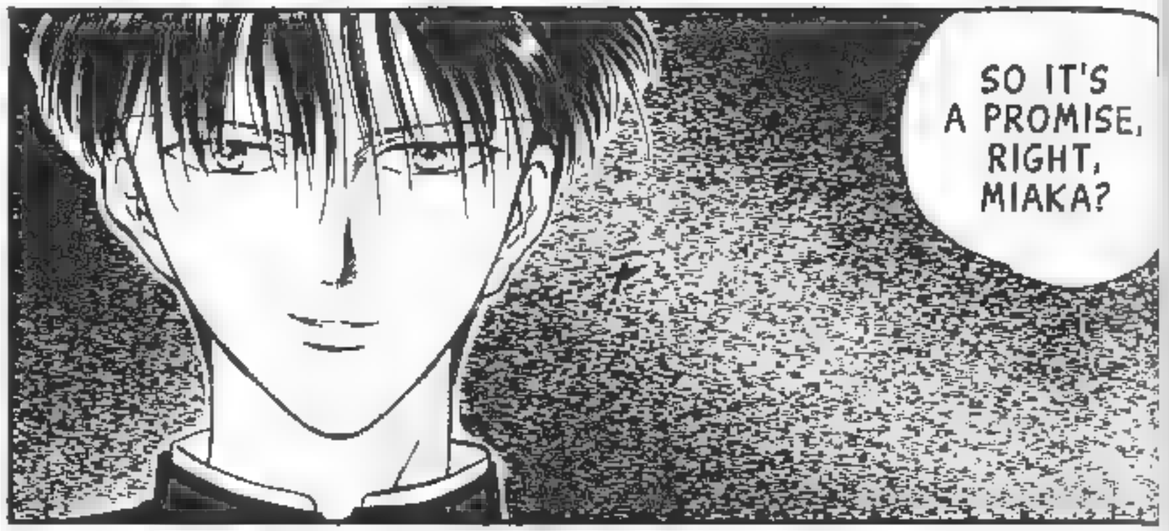
FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP

TAMA-HOME IS ONE OF THE CONSTEL-LATIONS OF THE SOUTH GOD SUZAKU ...

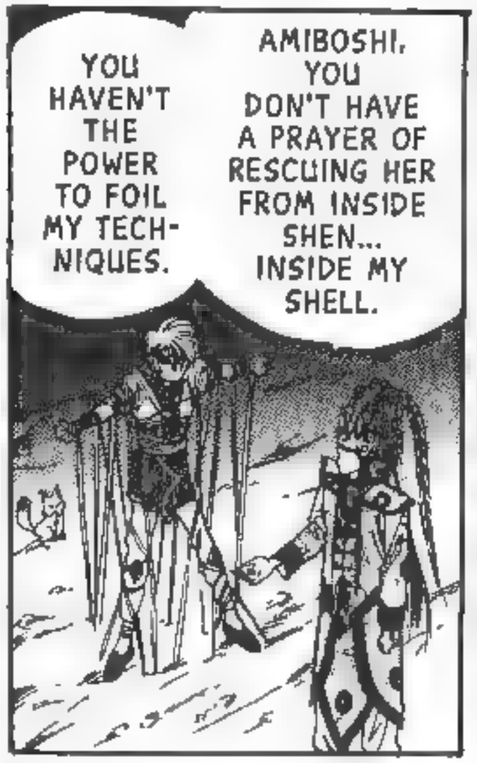
Tamahome Constellation. The name of a star constellation in ancient Chinese astrology.

The four gods of the north, south, east and west (Genbu, Suzaku, Seiryu and Byakko respectively) are assigned seven star constellations each.




SO IT'S A PROMISE, RIGHT, MIAKA?

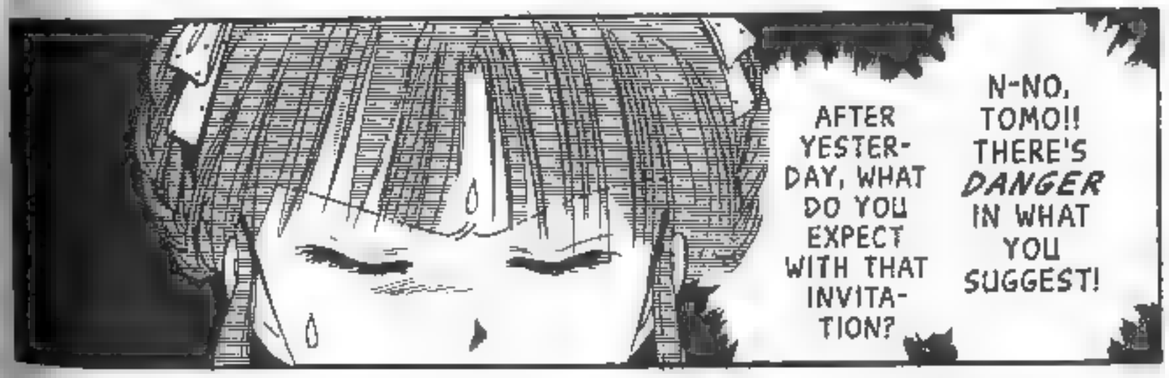
THAT'S RIGHT... NOW YOU WILL SURRENDER YOURSELF TO MY ILLUSIONARY DOUBLE.

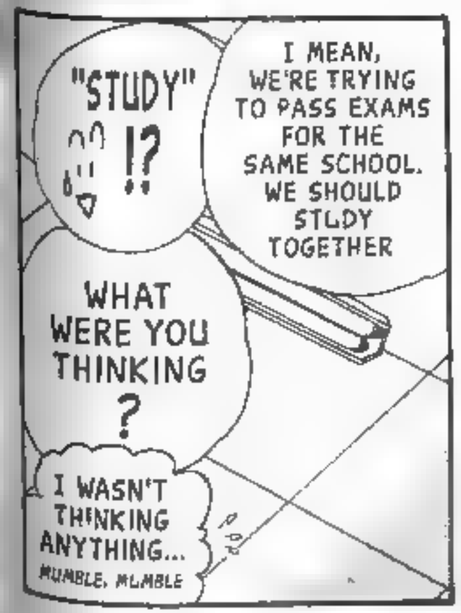

YOU HAVEN'T THE POWER TO FOIL MY TECH-NIQUES.
AMIBOSHI, YOU DON'T HAVE A PRAYER OF RESCUING HER FROM INSIDE SHEN... INSIDE MY SHELL.

.....

HUH?
IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT?

TOMORROW IS SUNDAY... WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY HOUSE?


AFTER YESTER-DAY, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WITH THAT INVITA-TION?
N-NO, TOMO!! THERE'S DANGER IN WHAT YOU SUGGEST!


"STUDY" !?
I MEAN, WE'RE TRYING TO PASS EXAMS FOR THE SAME SCHOOL. WE SHOULD STUDY TOGETHER
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ?
I WASN'T THINKING ANYTHING... MUMBLE, MUMBLE

MIAKA, YOUR HUGE GRIN DOESN'T FIT WITH YOUR FACE.

BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT! HE SEEMS TO BE IN A LOT OF PAIN.

TRULY? THAT'S A MIRACLE, GIVEN HOW HE FELL FROM THE CLIFF.

THE TALL GRASS BELOW MUST HAVE SAVED HIM.

...HE ISN'T INJURED VERY BADLY. HE JUST TOOK A LIGHT BLOW.

THAT EXPLAINS IT.

THEN I'LL PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY.

...BLEEDING...

B-- BEEN STABBED...

...MY BACK...

LET ME HAVE A LOOK!

HEY, YOUNG MAN WHERE DOES IT HURT?

NO POWER AT ALL!

AHH...

UN NH...

WELL, DEAR, THE THING IS...

HOW IS HE?

UR RR--

MI... ...AKA.

HUFF HUFF

H-HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

THE FACT THAT YOU CAN TAKE THE PAIN MUST MEAN YOU'RE A SUZAKU WARRIOR. EH, TAMAHOME ?

MAYBE IT WAS A TRICK, BUT NORMALLY YOU'D HAVE DIED OF SHOCK THEN AND THERE.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?

YOU'VE GROWN QUITE A BIT OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, BUT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH!

!!

MA-- MASTER !?

...MIAKA... ?

CALM DOWN. YOU'RE IN MY HOUSE. YOU WERE IN THE THROWS OF ILLUSION. I BROKE IT WITH ACUPRESSURE.

NO MORE MISERY, RIGHT.

WH- WHERE AM I !?

!?

DAMMIT! HE TRICKED ME!!

YOU MEAN, THAT WAS ILLUSION?

GOOD, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW.

CITY CENTRAL LIBRA

I'VE BEEN... HERE BEFORE.

WHAT'S WRONG ?

...? SURE YOU HAVE. ME, TOO. EVERYBODY'S BEEN HERE.

I CAME HERE... WITH YU! ONCE...

SOMETHING... VERY IMPORTANT HAPPENED HERE...

COUNT ME IN !!

THERE'S SOME *CAKE* AT MY HOUSE WAITING FOR YOU.

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS. LET'S GO.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE INVITED OVER SO SOON. I'LL HAVE TO WATCH MYSELF AROUND HIS FAMILY.

LET'S SEE... I HAVE THE PENCIL HE GAVE ME...

YES, YOU'LL BE THE PERFECT BRIDE!

FATHER

MOTHER

DON'T YOU FLATTER ME!

MY, I'VE NEVER *SEEN* SUCH A CHARMING, POLITE YOUNG WOMAN!

I-I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HERE!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT! HEY, I KNOW A SHORTCUT PAST THE LIBRARY...

.....

SENILITY HITS SO YOUNG!

OH, PLEASE STOP! YOU'RE MAKING ME *BLUSH!*

WHY DOES IT BOTHER ME SO MUCH? WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

THAT "DEMON" CHARACTER, SUZAKU, THE LIBRARY...

HEY!

YOU CAN SEE THE LIBRARY FROM HERE.

HMM.

HEY, TOMO! LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY LATER. I WANT TO LOOK SOMETHING UP.

AH...

THANKS FOR THE HOSPITALITY!

IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?

SOMETHING FEELS AWFULLY STRANGE HERE...

HUH? ISN'T ANYONE HERE?

COME ON IN.

WOW! YOUR ROOM'S SO NICE AND CLEAN. MY BROTHER'S IS A MESS.

I'M NOT A FAN OF... DISORDER.

OH...

THIS IS ALL I CAN DO !

I LOVE YOU. I'VE LOVED YOU FOR SO LONG.

OR... ARE YOU SAYING YOU *DON'T* LIKE ME

N-NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!!

VERY WELL.

WHA-AAAA-AAT!?

WHA--

RR MM !

WHY? WE'RE IN LOVE, AREN'T WE?

...THE WAY I GET MY FIRST TASTE OF THE *ADULT WORLD!?*

N-NO! IT'S ALL TOO SUDDEN!!

H-- HOLD ON!!

TH-- THIS CAN'T BE--

B-BUT YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO STUDY! WE'RE STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH. WHAT WILL YOUR *FAMILY* SAY?

WE'RE ALL ALONE.

FAMILY? I HAVE NO FAMILY HERE...

OH, YEAH, THE LIBRARY

I HAVE TO REMEMBER! WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

CITY CENTRAL LIBRARY

HEY! LOOK AT THIS, YUI!

PEOPLE AREN'T ALLOWED IN THE RESTRICTED PRIVATE LIBRARY.

"READ TO THE STORY'S END; THE SPELL SHALL GRANT YOUR WISH."

I LIKE TOMO.

THAT MEANS THIS IS OKAY, RIGHT?

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

ドン ドン ドン ドン!

IS THERE SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN?

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY HEART THAT'S HOLDING ME BACK...

"WILL YOU SUMMON SUZAKU AND PROTECT OUR EMPIRE, MIAKA?"

THER WAS KING THIS HUGE PALAC HE WAS AN EMPERO

"PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU."

"I'LL DO IT. I'LL BE THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU!!"

"I COULD GET INTO WHATEVER SCHOOL I WANT TO..."

"ANY WISH WILL BE GRANTED YO. ONCE SUZAK IS SUMMONED THE ONLY ON WITH THAT POWER IS THE PRIESTESS..."

"SUCKED INTO A BOOK?" YOU'RE REMEMBERING SOME DREAM. THINGS LIKE THAT DON'T HAPPEN!

WE GOT SUCKED INTO THE BOOK SOMEHOW... WHAT WAS ITS NAME...?

WE FOUND AN OLD BOOK IN THE RESTRICTED PRIVATE LIBRARY!

TOMO! I WENT TO THE LIBRARY WITH YUI!

BUT I REMEMBER THE WORLD OF THE BOOK. IT WAS A PLACE LIKE ANCIENT CHINA.

A DREAM... SO IT WAS... A DREAM.

FORGET ABOUT IT.

!

I'M... *STILL* IN THE BOOK!

AND... *YOU'RE* NOT THE ONE I LOVE!

"BY OBTAINING TREASURES, THE SHENTSO-PAO, IN THE COUNTRIES OF BEI-JIA AND XI-LANG, WE CAN SUMMON SUZAKU."

"SUMMON SUZAKU AND WISH TO BECOME A PART OF THIS WORLD!"

"THEN WE CAN BE TOGETHER."

LET GO OF ME. THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

"YOU MUSTN'T LET THE SHENTSO-PAO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE SEIRYU WARRIORS AND THEIR PRIES-TESS."

PRIESTESS... OF SUZAKU...

"OUR ENEMY, QU-DONG, IS ALSO LOOKING FOR THEIR PRIESTESS. BY SUMMONING THE GOD SEIRYU, THEY SEEK TO RULE HONG-NAN."

"YUI HAS BECOME THE ENEMY. THE PRIESTESS OF SEIRYU."

"...AND THE REST OF THE SEVEN CONSTELLATIONS MUST PROTECT THE PRIESTESS."

THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR WAS..."I, HOTOHORI..."

!?

IMPRESSIVE. YOU MANAGED TO DEFEAT THE TECHNIQUE OF THE SEIRYU WARRIOR TOMO!

NOW, YOU SHALL *NEVER* LEAVE THIS WORLD!

TAMAHOME!!

"TOGETHER FOREVER... MIAKA!"

TAMA-HOME!

YAAAAH!!

ONCE YOU LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SUMMON SUZAKU. SOMETHING SAVED YOU FROM NAKAGO. BUT THIS TIME THE RESULTS WILL BE DIFFERENT!
HA HA HA!

GASP

IF I'M GONNA ESCAPE, IT'S GOTTA BE *NOW!!*

TOMO'S ENTIRELY FOCUSED ON HIS SHELL.

THESE VINES ARE ILLUSION. I HAVE TO WAKE MYSELF UP!

YOU SPEW A LOT OF INSULTS CAN'T YOU LET OUT SOME OF THOSE SEDUCTIVE MOANS?

ASK YOUR BOYFRIEND *HE* KNEW WHAT SOUNDS GOT ME AROUSED!

YOU BAD GUY! STOP IT!! YOU LETCH! *YOU DIRTY OLD MAN!!*

HOW CAN I ESCAPE THIS WORLD?

NO! TAMA-HOME!

HIS HAIR HAS LOOSENED ITS GRIP!

!

A FLUTE !

!!

HOW DID YOU ...

AMI-BOSHI !?

MIAKA !

I WILL GIVE YOU POWER TO BREAK THROUGH THE ILLUSION!!

AH!

MIAKA!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?

MEOW WW!

STAND ASIDE, AMI-BOSHI !

SHEN !!

...UH... AAAARRRHH !!

GIVEN THE STATE OF YOUR FINGERS, YOUR *FLUTE* WON'T PUT ME IN MUCH DANGER.

HEH!

I SEE. AS YOU WISH.

AND ONCE THE TRAITOR IS PROPERLY COOKED, I'LL TURN MY TASTES TO THE SWEET PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU!

HURRY! YOU HAVE TO *WAKE UP!!*

MIAKA! NOW'S THE TIME TO *RUN!!*

MIAKA!!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 11: VETERAN

YOU ARE A SEIRYU CELESTIAL WARRIOR.

YOU WOULD RESCUE YOUR ENEMY, THE PRIESTESS OF SUZAKU, BY BETRAYING YOUR COMRADE?

I WON'T LET YOU TOUCH HER!

IT'S *YOU* THAT I'M GOING TO FIGHT!

SHE TAUGHT ME THAT I HAVE TO *FIGHT* EVIL.

MIAKA MADE ME REALIZE THAT I WAS JUST RUNNING AWAY.

AND TAMAHOME TREATED ME, HIS ENEMY, AS A FRIEND!

The Fushigi Yûgi Guide to Sound Effects

Most of the sound effects in FUSHIGI YÛGI are the way Yû Watase created them, in their original Japanese.

We created this glossary for a page-by-page, panel by panel explanation of the action and background noises. By using this guide, you may even learn some Japanese.

The glossary lists page and panel number. For example, page 1, panel 3, would be listed as 1.3.

26.1 FX: SHA [moving curtains]
26.5 FX: KYU [tightening]

28.3 FX: ZAZAAAAA [scarfing down food]
28.3 FX: KARAN [dropping chopsticks]
28.4 FX: MOSHA MOSHA [munch munch]
28.6 FX: KATAN [kak]

30.2 FX: POTA [drip]
30.3 FX: HA [Gasp]
30.4 FX: PORO PORO PORO [crying]

31.3 FX: GATAN [chair clunking]

32.1 FX: HYOI [lifting]
32.2 FX: MUSHI [ignoring her]
32.3 FX: SUTA SUTA SUTA [quick stomping]
32.4 FX: JITABATA [struggling]

33.3 FX: WAIWA WA [crowd noise]
33.4 FX: SUPO [slipping on]

37.2 FX: KURU [a sudden turn]

40.1 FX: PATAN [door closing]

41.7 FX: POKO POKO [pouring]

43.1 FX: GURAR [swaying]
43.3 FX: KARAN [klak]
43.3 FX: DOSA [thud]

CHAPTER FIFTY-FIVE: ILLUSIONARY WARMTH

5.2 FX: DOKUN [heart beats]
5.3 FX: DOKUN [heart beats]

9.2 FX: DOKUN [heart beats]
9.3 FX: GASA [shifting her weight]
9.4 FX: DOKUN [heart beats]
9.4 FX: DOKUN [heart beats]
9.4 FX: SU [rushing air]

10.3 FX: BYU [flying blade]
10.4 FX: GYAAAAA [a loud scream]

11.1 FX: DOSA [falling to the ground]
11.2 FX: BA [grabbing]

12.1 FX: ZURU [slipping]
12.3 FX: ZAN [a hard hit]
12.4 FX: SHURURU [whirling]

13.1 FX: GYU [clenching]
13.2 FX: KORO [turning]

14.4 FX: ZAKU ZAKU [steps in sand]

15.1 FX: ZAKU [steps in sand]
15.3 FX: ZURU [going to one knee]
15.5 FX: BAN [striking rock]

18.2 FX: HA [surprise]

20.1 FX: BATA [footsteps]

24.2 FX: GAAA [a mystic sound]
24.3 FX: BASHI [cracking]

25.2 FX: PIKU [surprise]
25.4 FX: SU [moving curtains]

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Yû Watase was born on March 5 in a town near Osaka, Japan, and she was raised there before moving to Tokyo to follow her dream of creating manga. In the decade since her debut short story, *Pajama de Ojama* ("An Intrusion in Pajamas"), she has produced more than 50 compiled volumes of short stories and continuing series. Her latest series, *Zettai Kareshi* ("He'll Be My Boyfriend"), is currently running in the anthology magazine *Shôjo Comic*. Watase's long running horror/romance story *Ceres: Celestial Legend* and her most recent completed series, *Alice 19th*, are now available in North America published by VIZ. She loves science fiction, fantasy and comedy.

120.1 FX: HA [realization]
120.2 FX: ZAAAA... [swirling]

122.3 FX: PITA [freezing]

124.5 FX: DO [burst]

125.5 FX: DOKI... [heart beat]

126.2 FX: FUWA [floating]
126.3 FX: HYUUUU [wind blowing]

127.3 FX: GIKU [alarm]

128.3 FX: JIIN [overflowing emotion]

129.1 FX: PISHAN [gleeming]
129.5 FX: DOKA [strike]

130.1 FX: KORO KORO [rolling]
130.2 FX: GAN GAN [throbbing]
130.4 FX: HA [surprise]

131.2 FX: DOKI [heart beat]
131.5 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart beating]
131.5 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart beating]

132.5 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart beating]

135.3 FX: ZAKU ZAKU [footsteps]
135.4 FX: HYUU [wind]

138.3 FX: GASA GASA [flipping pages]
138.4 FX: DOSA DOSA [falling objects]
138.4 FX: BASA [opening]

139.1 FX: GIKU [alarm]
139.3 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [heart beating]
139.4 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN [heart beating]
139.4 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN[heart beating]

140.1 FX: DOSA [object falling]
140.2 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [heart beating]
140.2 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [heart beating]
140.3 FX: DOKUN [heart beating]
140.4 FX: KARA [door opening]

141.3 FX: PA [light changing]
141.4 FX: KII [door opening]
141.6 FX: ZUZAZAZAA [sliding]

99.2 FX: GIRI [sliding]

102.2 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN [heart thumping]
102.3 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN [heart thumping]

104.1 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [heart thumping]
104.1 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [heart thumping]

106.3 FX: BIKU [shock]
106.4 FX: HYU [flash]

107.1 FX: PAN [explosion]
107.2 FX: FU [relief]

109.2 FX: SHU [flash]
109.3 FX: FU [sudden movement]

110.1 FX: DOKA [strike]
110.4 FX: SUTO [landing]
110.4 FX: BASA [falling]

111.2 FX: HA HA HA [rapid breathing]

113.1 FX: HYUUU [wind]

114.3 FX: BA [whipping]
114.5 FX: DO... [piercing]

CHAPTER FIFTY-EIGHT: COUNTERFEIT MEMORY

115.1 FX: ZU [removing]
115.4 FX: GEHO [cough]

118.1 FX: FURA [falling back]
118.2 FX: GARA [rocks falling]

119.4 FX: NYA [smirk]
119.5 FX: KAAA [flash]

68.2 FX: HA [a gasp]
68.4 FX: SU [quick movement]

72.1 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [heart thumping]
72.2 FX: KIRA [shining]
72.3 FX: BIKU [surprise]

73.3 FX: PAN [crashing]

79.5 FX: BA [sudden movement]

82.4 FX: KYUU [squeeze]

83.3 FX: HA [surprise]
83.4 FX: SU [sudden appearance]

84.3 FX: KYU [tying]

CHAPTER FIFTY-SEVEN: OMINOUS EYES

88.2 FX: KUWAAA [burning]
88.2 FX: KYAAAAA [a scream]

90.3 FX: KA [horse appearing]

91.2 FX: BIKU [surprise]
91.2 FX: KIIIN [piercing noise]
91.3 FX: BA [explosion]

92.2 FX: BIKU [surprise]

94.2 FX: GARA... [pebble falling]

95.3 FX: BOKO BOKO [ground breaking]
95.4 FX: ZAAA [whipping through]

98.1 FX: GIRI GIRI [sliding]
98.4 FX: SHURU [feather movement]
98.5 FX: BIKUN [sudden twitch]

46.2 FX: GYU [squeeze]
46.3 FX: PUCHI PUCHI [unbuttoning]
46.4 FX: BASA BASA [clothes dropping]
46.5 FX: GISHI... [bed noise]

48.1 FX: YORO [wobbling]
48.5 FX: FURA... [falling]

49.3 FX: GYU [hugging]
49.5 FX: HA HA HA!

50.3 FX: BIKUN [a surprised jerk back]
50.4 FX: BIKU [a surprised jerk back]

51.3 FX: SUUU... [a slow appearance]
51.4 FX: HYU [flashing by]
51.4 FX: BIKU [a surprised jerk back]

52.1 FX: FU ["breath" passing]

53.3 FX: TORO [slow movement]
53.4 FX: HA [a small gasp]

54.1 FX: ZURU... [slipping]
54.2 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN [rapid heartbeat]
54.3 FX: DOKUN DOKUN [rapid heartbeat]

CHAPTER FIFTY-SIX: DAWN FOR THE HEART

57.1 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart thumping]
FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart thumping]

58.4 FX: HA [surprise]
FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart thumping]
58.5 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart thumping]

59.2 FX: ZEKUN [tensing up]
59.4 FX: HA... [Oops]
59.5 FX: GISHI [bed movement]

61.4 FX: GURA... [swaying]

62.3 FX: BASA BASA [clothes falling]

63.2 FX: PIKU [sudden surprise]

64.2 FX: HA [gasp]

66.5 FX: PASA [light object falling]

EDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Shôjo in the Fast Lane

Let's face it—only ten graphic novels in over five years of editing is a pretty poor pace.

For the most recent additions to our readership, let me explain why things have been going so slowly up until now...

For the past five and a half years, and for the foreseeable future, *Fushigi Yûgi* is published in a magazine, *Animerica Extra*. Because there is an extremely limited amount of space in the magazine (at first it was only 128 pages for up to seven different manga series), all we could fit into the magazine was about thirty pages of Miaka's adventures per month (that works out to about one chapter per month). That means that a graphic novel will only come out, at most, once every six months. Why did we do it that way? Economics. When Fushigi Yûgi debuted, thousands more people bought the magazine than bought the graphic novels.

Then, in 2002, the world of manga changed, and fans who only grumbled at the long wait started into open revolt (okay, that's a tiny exaggeration), and the new fans felt that the shorter waits were a standard part of manga publishing. It wasn't then, but it is now.

So we're churning out books as fast as we can—putting double the amount of *Fushigi Yûgi* into the magazine and thereby halving the waiting period. Making sure you have more of Watase goodness in your hands on a more regular basis, but not compromising one whit on quality! (I think a whit is comparable to a furlong, but much shorter than a league. You have to deal with these things in fantasy manga.)

So enjoy this manga, and soon, very soon, the next one will be in your hands too!

Bill Flanagan
Editor of *Fushigi Yûgi*

Did you like *FUSHIGI YÛGI*? Here's what VIZ recommends you try next:

© 1997 Yuu Watase/
Shogakukan, Inc.

CERES: CELESTIAL LEGEND is an engaging story of love, betrayal and revenge by *Fushigi Yûgi*'s creator Yû Watase. Aya's world is turned upside when her family tries to kill her on her sixteenth birthday because of her family's deep, dark secret.

© 2001 Yuu Watase/
Shogakukan, Inc.

ALICE 19TH is the latest completed series by the author of the very book you hold in your hands, Yû Watase! Alice is the forgotten younger sister of one of the most popular girls in school and at home. And when Alice falls in love with the handsome Kyô Wakayama, it's only natural that Alice's sister, Mayura, would be his most likely girlfriend. Then a magical white rabbit enters Alice's life to tell her that she can be a master of the world-changing Lotis Words—a power that can alter the world into a dream, or a nightmare!

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ANGEL SANCTUARY breaks every taboo subject you have been taught not to talk about. Sadistic angels, determined demons, supernatural powers, and at the center of the crisis is Setsuna Mudo, a mixed-up high-school boy who is trying his best to suppress a growing love for the girl of his dreams, his own sister Sara. Kaori Yuki's epic vision, gorgeous art, and down-to-earth main characters come together in a fantasy that would make Milton and Dante blush! Don't miss it!

168.1 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN [heart thumping]
168.1 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN! [heart thumping]

169.2 FX: FUU FUUU [pencil falling]
169.4 FX: KA [flash]

171.2 FX: PIKU [a twitch]

172.1 FX: PIKU... [alarm]

174.4 FX: BA [shooting out]

175.6 FX: GIRI GIRI [tightening]

176.1 FX: GI GI [tightening]
176.4 FX: GI GI [pulling]
176.5 FX: GU GU [tugging]

177.2 FX: BOKI [cracking]
177.5 FX: GIRI GIRI [tightening]

178.1 FX: PIIIIII [a musical note]
178.2 FX: HA [realization]

179.1 FX: SHURU... [loosening]
179.4 FX: GUSA [stab]

180.2 FX: PISHI [cracking]
180.3 FX: PISHI PISHI PISHI [crumbling]
180.4 FX: PAN [breaking]

181.2 FX: SUUU [fade in]
181.4 FX: ZA [footstep]

182.1 FX: SA [quick movement]

143.1 FX: ZUKIN [pain]
143.2 FX: BUN BUN [shaking off]

144.3 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart beating]

CHAPTER FIFTY-NINE: COUNTERFEIT LOVE

151.3 FX: DOKA DOKA [hitting]
151.3 FX: GURI GURI [noogies]

152.1 FX: NIKO [smile]
152.2 FX: NIKO [smile]
152.3 FX: NIKO [smile]

153.2 FX: GARA [door opening]
153.3 FX: SAWA SAWA [crowd sounds]

154.2 FX: DOKIN [surprise]

155.4 FX: DOKA [punch]
155.5 FX: DOKI DOKI [heartbeats]

156.2 FX: DOKKUN [heavy heartbeat]
156.2 FX: Koron [clattering]

157.1 FX: NYA [leering smile]

159.4 FX: POKI [crack]
159.5 FX: TON [thump]

160.3 FX: GABA [rising]

162.1 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart beating]
162.1 FX: DOKI DOKI DOKI [heart beating]
162.4 FX: DOKA DOKA [punching]
162.4 FX: JIRO JIRO [staring]

163.5 FX: KURU [turning]

164.2 FX: TON TON [footsteps]
164.4 FX: KIII [door creaking]
164.5 FX: GACHAN [locking]

165.1 FX: BASA... [clothes falling]

167.1 FX: DOKUN [a heavy heartbeat]
167.1 FX: DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN DOKUN [heartbeats]
167.3 FX: DOKU DOKUN... [heart thumping]
167.6 FX: KASHAN! [shutters closing]

COMPLETE OUR SURVEY AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

☐ Please do NOT send me information about VIZ products, news and events, special offers, or other information.

☐ Please do NOT send me information from VIZ's trusted business partners.

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E-mail: _____

☐ **Male** ☐ **Female** **Date of Birth** (mm/dd/yyyy): ___/___/____ (Under 13? Parental consent required)

What race/ethnicity do you consider yourself? (please check one)

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander ☐ Black/African American ☐ Hispanic/Latino

☐ Native American/Alaskan Native ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Other: _____

What VIZ product did you purchase? (check all that apply and indicate title purchased)

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Reason for purchase: (check all that apply)

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☐ Newsstand ☐ Video/Video Game Store ☐ Other: _____

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What other VIZ properties have you purchased/own? _____

_____

Heaven Is About to Become Hell On Earth

CERES Celestial Legend

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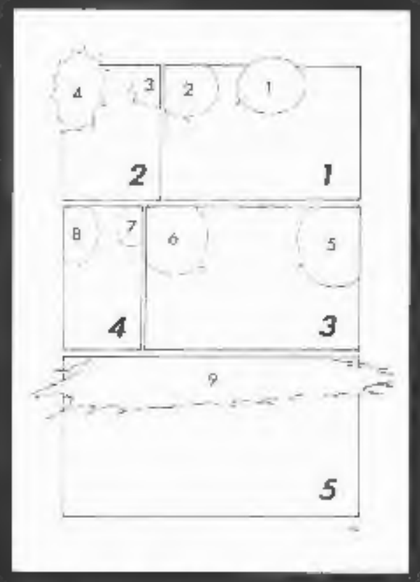
Hey! You're Reading in the Wrong Direction!

This is the ***end*** of this graphic novel!

To properly enjoy this VIZ graphic novel, please turn it around and begin reading from ***right to left.*** Unlike English, Japanese is read right to left, so Japanese comics are read in reverse order from the way English comics are typically read.



Follow the action this way

This book has been printed in the original Japanese format in order to preserve the orientation of the original artwork. Have fun with it!

How many anime and/or manga titles have you purchased in the last year? How many were VIZ titles? (please check one from each column)

ANIME	MANGA	VIZ
☐ None	☐ None	☐ None
☐ 1-4	☐ 1-4	☐ 1-4
☐ 5-10	☐ 5-10	☐ 5-10
☐ 11+	☐ 11+	☐ 11+

I find the pricing of VIZ products to be: (please check one)

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☐ Adventure ☐ Comic Strip ☐ Science Fiction ☐ Fighting
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What do you think of VIZ's new look?

☐ Love It ☐ It's OK ☐ Hate It ☐ Didn't Notice ☐ No Opinion

Which do you prefer? (please check one)

☐ Reading right-to-left
☐ Reading left-to-right

Which do you prefer? (please check one)

☐ Sound effects in English
☐ Sound effects in Japanese with English captions
☐ Sound effects in Japanese only with a glossary at the back

THANK YOU! Please send the completed form to:

VIZ

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